

Reports show fireworks increase pollution

Visalia Times-Delta, Sunday, July 3, 2016

Fourth of July fireworks can be fun to watch but they also increase pollution in the valley.

The Valley Air District is encouraging residents to attend local firework shows as alternative to using personal fireworks.

"Each year, people suffer serious health consequences from direct exposure in the neighborhoods where they live and breathe...from fireworks activities that are entirely preventable," Valley Air District Pollution Control Officer Seyed Sadredin said.

Air quality in the Valley during summer is already burdened by ozone pollution and fire emissions add to what already may be poor air quality, officials said.

Each year following fourth of July firework displays, air monitors report spikes in particulate pollution.

Air officials urge no fireworks

Stockton Record, Saturday, July 2, 2016

Officials with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District are urging people to forego neighborhood fireworks displays and enjoy civic events instead. Fireworks produces potentially dangerous pollution that can lead to respiratory problems.

Even safe and sane fireworks, which are allowed in many areas of San Joaquin County, can produce dangerous particulate matter, including soot, ash and metals.

Valley particulate matter readings are often four or five times higher than the federal standards because, in part, of personal fireworks, officials said. This on top of the already diminished air quality in summer.