# AIR QUALITY IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Despite years of air-quality improvements, the San Joaquin Valley air basin fails to meet state and federal health-based standards for particulate matter (PM). The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is required by federal law to adopt stringent control measures to reduce PM emissions.

Fugitive dust is caused when soil is disturbed through digging, earthmoving, excavation and vehicle traffic. Fugitive dust contributes to particulate matter pollution that is primarily 10 microns and smaller, or PM10, a harmful mix of soot, chemicals, dust, salts, dirt, metals, smoke and toxins. PM10 also includes PM 2.5, fine particles that can bypass the body's natural defenses and lodge deep in the lungs. Exposure to particulates can trigger heart attacks, increase lung cancer risk, aggravate conditions such as asthma and bronchitis and reduce lung function. Regulation VIII is estimated to eliminate nearly 19 tons of PM10 emissions per day throughout the Valley.

For more information and to download forms, visit www.valleyair.org and select the Compliance Assistance menu.

Or call the nearest District office.



#### Northern Region

Serving San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced counties 4800 Enterprise Way, Modesto, CA 95356-8718 Tel: 209-557-6400 FAX: 209-557-6475 Complaint Line: 1-800-281-7003

#### **Central Region (Main Office)**

Serving Madera, Fresno and Kings counties 1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue, Fresno, CA 93726-0244

Tel: 559-230-6000 FAX: 559-230-6061

Complaint Line: 1-800-870-1037

#### **Southern Region**

Serving Tulare and Valley air basin portions of Kern counties 34946 Flyover Court, Bakersfield, CA 93308-9725 Tel: 661-392-5500 FAX: 661-392-5585 Complaint Line: 1-800-926-5550

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# FUGITIVE DUST CONTROL

Protecting public health from the risks of particle pollution





1-800 SMOG INFO www.valleyair.org

## Controlling fugitive dust emissions protects public health and is required by Regulation VIII.

#### **Reducing Dust Emissions**

The Valley Air District's Regulation VIII requires property owners, contractors, developers, equipment operators, farmers and public agencies to control fugitive dust emissions from specified outdoor fugitive dust sources, including:

- Construction sites
- Excavation and earthmoving
- Bulk material handling, storage and transport
- Vacant land
- Paved and unpaved roads
- Unpaved vehicle traffic areas



Regulation VIII includes the following rules:

- Rule 8011 General Requirements
- Rule 8021 Construction, Demolition, Excavation, Extraction, and Other Earthmoving Activities
- Rule 8031 Bulk Materials
- Rule 8041 Carryout and Trackout
- Rule 8051 Open Areas
- Rule 8061 Paved and Unpaved Roads
- Rule 8071 Unpaved Vehicle/Equipment Traffic Areas
- Rule 8081 Agricultural Sources

### If You See Dust, Control It

Regulation VIII requires that visible dust be limited to 20 percent opacity and that disturbed surfaces or soil be stabilized.

Implementing appropriate dust-control measures will help you comply with the basic requirements of the regulation. A good rule of thumb is, "If you see dust, control it."

Violations of Air District Regulation VIII can result in fines.

#### **How to Manage Fugitive Dust**

Regulation VIII specifies the following measures to control fugitive dust:

- Apply water to unpaved surfaces and areas.
- Use non-toxic chemical or organic dust suppressants on unpaved roads and traffic areas.
- Limit or reduce vehicle speed on unpaved roads and traffic areas.
- Maintain areas in a stabilized condition by restricting vehicle access
- Install wind barriers.
- During high winds, cease outdoor activities that disturb the soil.
- Keep bulk materials sufficiently wet when handling.
- Store and handle materials in a three-sided structure.
- When storing bulk materials, apply water to the surface or cover the storage pile with a tarp.
- Don't overload haul trucks. Overloaded trucks are likely to spill bulk materials.
- Cover haul trucks with a tarp or other suitable cover. Or, wet the top of the load enough to limit visible dust emissions.
- Clean the interior of cargo compartments on emptied haul trucks prior to leaving a site.
- Prevent trackout by installing a trackout control device.
- Clean up trackout at least once a day. If along a busy road or highway, clean up trackout immediately.
- Monitor dust-generating activities and implement appropriate measures for maximum dust control.

# Be proactive. Be kind to your neighbors.

For any dust-generating activity, monitor operations, control dust when necessary, and do not cause a nuisance. Violations of the Air District's nuisance rule can result in fines.



#### **Other Requirements**

Regulation VIII requires the following:

- Dust-Control Training: Anyone who prepares or implements
  a Dust-Control Plan must attend a training course conducted
  by the Air District. Schedules for upcoming courses are
  available online or by calling the nearest District office (see
  back panel).
- Dust-Control Plans: Required of residential construction projects 10 acres or larger, non-residential projects five acres or larger, or any project that involves handling more than 2,500 cubic yards of materials per day on at least three days of the project. Plans must be submitted to the District at least 30 days prior to commencing construction. The District assesses a fee for each plan submitted.
- Recordkeeping: Required for each day a dust-control measure is applied. Forms are available online or by calling the nearest District office (see back panel).
- Construction Notification: Required of residential construction projects that are one acre or more but less than 10 acres. Also required of non-residential construction projects of one acre or more but less than five acres. The District must receive notification at least 48 hours before construction begins. Forms are available online or by calling the nearest District office (see back panel).
- Reporting from Public Agencies: In addition to the above, public agencies must periodically report the paved and unpaved roads under their jurisdiction. For more information, please call the nearest District office (see back panel).