

For immediate release 06/7/2021

Attn: Local news, weather, health and assignment editors

Media Contacts

Heather Heinks (559) 994-7591

Jaime Holt (559) 309-3336

Gusty winds prompt health caution

Blowing dust poses potential health concern Valley-wide

Strong, gusty northwesterly winds this afternoon are causing blowing dust and elevated PM10 concentrations over San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties. Gusty winds are expected to produce blowing dust across the remaining parts of the San Joaquin Valley through tomorrow morning. The District recommends that residents in affected areas use caution and avoid exposure to blowing dust.

Strong winds often cause localized blowing dust in areas where soils are exceptionally dry—creating unhealthy concentrations of particulate matter 10 microns and smaller (PM10). Exposure to particulate pollution can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections.

Where conditions warrant, people with heart or lung disease should follow their doctors' advice for dealing with episodes of particulate exposure. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure or heavy exertion, depending on their local conditions.

For more information, visit www.valleyair.org or call a District office in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-392-5500).