

# Let's Clear the Air!



*The San Joaquin*

*Valley Air Pollution*

*Control District is*

*committed to*

*ensuring that all*

*residents of the San*

*Joaquin Valley have*

*clear air to breathe.*



San Joaquin Valley  
Air Pollution  
Control District

[www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org)



*Possible causes of Engine Vehicle Smoke may include clogged air filters, oil leaks, and using the wrong grades of fuel.*

## Common Causes of Gasoline Engine Vehicle Smoke

### Visible Signs

Black or Gray Smoke

### Diagnosis

Incomplete fuel combustion

### Possible Causes

Clogged air filter  
Carburetor, choke, fuel injection, or emission system malfunction  
Ignition timing off  
Blocked manifold

Blue Smoke

Engine oil being burned

Oil leaking into combustion chamber  
Worn piston rings, valves, or cylinders  
Leaking exhaust manifold  
Head gasket failure

White Smoke

Coolant and/or water vaporized in combustion

Head gasket leaking  
Cracked block or cylinder head

## Common Causes of Diesel Engine Vehicle Smoke

### Visible Signs

Black or Gray Smoke

### Diagnosis

Incomplete fuel combustion

### Possible Causes

Clogged air filter  
Wrong grade of fuel  
Incorrect timing  
Engine overheating  
Faulty injection system

Blue Smoke

Engine oil being burned or atomized

Worn piston rings, valves, or cylinders  
Engine oil level too high

White Smoke

Fuel is not burning

Faulty injection system  
Incorrect timing  
Engine overheating

## Let's Clear the Air!

Emissions from motor vehicles are a major source of air pollution, threatening our health, economy, and quality of life.

It is estimated that a poorly maintained vehicle emits up to 25 times more pollutants than allowed by emissions standards.

An indication of this is excessive tailpipe smoke.



Call  
**1-800-55-99-AIR**  
or **#SMOG** to report a  
smoking vehicle.

## Report Smoking Vehicles

The Valley Air District has a voluntary Smoking Vehicle Program that allows residents to anonymously report smoking vehicles seen on Valley roads.

When a vehicle is seen with visible exhaust for more than 10 seconds, call the Air District's hotline. Jot down the license plate number, car make and model, date, and the location of where the vehicle was seen.

Call **1-800-55-99-AIR** to report a smoking vehicle.

Call **#SMOG** free-of-charge for AT&T Wireless, Cellular One, and Via Wireless cellular telephone customers.

The owner of the smoking vehicle will be notified by mail and encouraged to make repairs to the vehicle.

Join the thousands of San Joaquin Valley residents who are looking for smoking vehicles and doing their part for clearer air!

## CA Motor Vehicle Code

Smoking vehicles are a nuisance and against the law. All vehicles that emit excessive smoke, including those with diesel engines, are in violation of Sections 27153 and 27153.1 of the California Motor Vehicle Code. As such, they can be cited by local law enforcement.

If you suspect your vehicle emits excessive smoke, you can make specific adjustments or repairs to correct the situation. *Here are some ways you can help clear the air:*

### Reduce Vehicle Idling

Excessive vehicle idling releases carbon monoxide and other pollutants into the air. Carbon monoxide is a toxic gas that poses special health risks to sensitive individuals—especially those with heart ailments.



**Worn plugs waste gas and lower engine performance.**

### Keep Engines Well-Tuned

Dirty carburetors, clogged air filters, and worn parts and plugs waste gas and lower engine performance and contribute increased emissions of particulate matter and nitrogen oxides—two major contributors to air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley.

### Cooperate with the Smog Check Program

State law requires an inspection of all vehicles' emission control equipment every two years. Smog Checks and making necessary repairs comply with the law and reduce air pollution. Remember—emission systems of exempt vehicles are required by law, and the removal of any smog equipment is illegal.

## Diesel Engines Should Not Smoke

Diesel engines will emit some smoke when they first start out or are under load, but they should not smoke constantly nor when operating at cruising speed on a level road. When a vehicle smokes excessively, it needs to be examined by a mechanic and repaired.



*When a vehicle smokes excessively, it needs to **be examined by a mechanic and repaired.***

### Follow Owner's Manuals

A vehicle owner's manual will recommend the option grade of gasoline to use, proper gear shifting methods, and other ways to keep engines running at maximum environmental and economic efficiency.

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*For additional information, contact the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District regional office nearest you:*

### Northern Region

*(San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced Counties)*  
4230 Kiernan Ave., #130, Modesto, CA 95356-9321  
(209) 557-6400 • FAX: (209) 557-6475

### Central Region

*(Madera, Fresno and Kings Counties)*  
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726-0244  
(559) 230-5950 • FAX: (559) 230-6062

### Southern Region

*(Tulare and Kern Counties)*  
2700 M St., #275, Bakersfield, CA 93301-2370  
(661) 326-6900 • FAX: (661) 326-6985

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