

# News Release

For immediate release

9-27-10

For: Local News, Health and  
Weather sections



**San Joaquin Valley**  
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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## Smoke diminishes but air quality remains poor

Although smoke impacts from the Sheep fire in Kings Canyon National Park in Fresno County have begun to diminish, air quality in the San Joaquin Valley is expected to remain poor this week as unseasonably hot temperatures and poor dispersion remain in place, creating high ozone conditions.

Valley Air District officials forecast air quality conditions of Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (orange on the Air Quality Index) throughout most of the Valley, with the potential for Unhealthy (red) conditions. This forecast is due to ozone (smog) levels.

Officials note that the diminishing wildfire smoke has resulted in lower particulate matter (PM) concentrations in the foothills and on the Valley floor; however, ozone -- a chemical reaction in heat and sunlight of various pollutants – remains high because of hot, stagnant conditions.

“The ridge of high pressure that has been over the region the past several days will remain the dominant feature this week, with resulting ozone problems,” said Samir Sheikh, the District’s director of Strategies and Incentives.

Ozone that is forecast to be Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups can pose affect people with respiratory disease, children and the elderly. Ozone that is categorized as Unhealthy can affect even people with no pre-existing health conditions. Officials urge people to take their own health situation into account when planning outdoor activities.

For daily air quality forecasts by county, call toll-free 1-800 SMOG INFO (766-4463) or visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org).

For more information about the Valley Air District, call a regional office: in Fresno, 559-230-6000; in Bakersfield, 661-392-5500; and in Modesto, 209-557-6400.

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