

News Release

For immediate release

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For: Local News, Health and
Weather sections



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Valley air quality deteriorates ***Conditions prompt health caution, wood-burning prohibitions***

Deteriorating air quality throughout the air basin has prompted local air officials to issue a health cautionary statement and wood-burning prohibitions in various counties.

The health caution because of gusty winds is in effect through this evening in **San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, western Fresno and Kings counties**. Winds may produce areas of localized blowing dust, which can result in unhealthy concentrations of particulate matter 10 microns and smaller, or PM10.

"Take precautions to protect your health if you are in an area of blowing dust," said Samir Sheikh, director of the Air District's Strategies and Incentives Department.

Exposure to particle pollution can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and acute bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections. Residents in these areas are advised to use caution through this evening. People with heart or lung diseases should follow their doctors' advice for dealing with episodes of unhealthy air quality. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure, strenuous activities or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged exposure, strenuous activities or heavy exertion.

Additionally, wood-burning curtailments have been issued for **Tulare** and the Valley portion of **Kern counties** for Wed., Nov. 2. The daylong, mandatory curtailment begins at midnight tonight (Nov. 1) and continues through midnight Wednesday. The prohibitions are the first for Tulare County and the second for Kern County in the new Check Before You Burn season that began Nov. 1.

There are two levels of wood-burning forecast: "Wood Burning Prohibited" or "Please Burn Cleanly." When a prohibition is declared, burning any solid fuel in a residential fireplace or wood-burning device is not permitted. Residences without access to natural gas service or where wood-burning is the sole source of heat are exempt from these prohibitions.

Prohibition violations are subject to fines.

For more information about Check Before You Burn or the daily wood-burning forecast, visit www.valleyair.org. Forecasts are also available at 1-800 SMOG INFO (766-4463).