

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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Winds prompt health caution *Blowing dust potential through weekend*

Gusty winds over the Valley air basin have prompted local air-pollution officials to issue a health cautionary statement effective through the weekend.

Winds throughout the Valley – San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley air basin portion of Kern counties -- may produce areas of localized blowing dust today through Sunday. Blowing dust can result in unhealthy concentrations of particulate matter 10 microns and smaller, or PM10.

“Residents should be aware of their local conditions, and take their particular health issues into account,” said Samir Sheikh, director of the Air District’s Strategies and Incentives department, which includes air quality forecasting and analysis.

Daily air quality forecasts by county are available at www.valleyair.org and at 1 800 SMOG INFO (766-4463).

Exposure to particle pollution can cause health problems, aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and acute bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections. People with existing respiratory and coronary disease, young children and the elderly are particularly susceptible to the effects of particle pollution.

Valley residents are advised to use caution through Sunday night. People with heart or lung diseases should follow their doctors’ advice for dealing with exposure to high levels of particulate matter where warranted.

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.

**SPECIAL MEDIA NOTE:
DUE TO THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND, MEDIA REQUESTS MUST BE MADE BY
FRIDAY AFTERNOON**

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