

News Release

For immediate release
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San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



Attn: Local news, weather and assignment editors

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Air officials urge fireworks restraint *Emissions affect health of Valley residents*

Local air officials remind Valley residents that Independence Day fireworks increase levels of dangerous particulate matter (PM) and pose a health threat to themselves and their neighbors.

Fireworks emit large quantities of PM, including soot, ash and metals, which cause serious health impacts, especially to people with existing respiratory conditions, elderly people and small children. Fine-particulate matter – PM2.5 – can invade the bloodstream and has been linked to heart attacks and stroke.

In addition, high levels of PM jeopardize the Valley’s progress in meeting air-quality standards that protect public health.

“Each year, we urge residents to consider the effects of our actions on our communities. People suffer from serious health consequences of activities that are entirely preventable,” said Jaime Holt, the District’s chief communications officer.

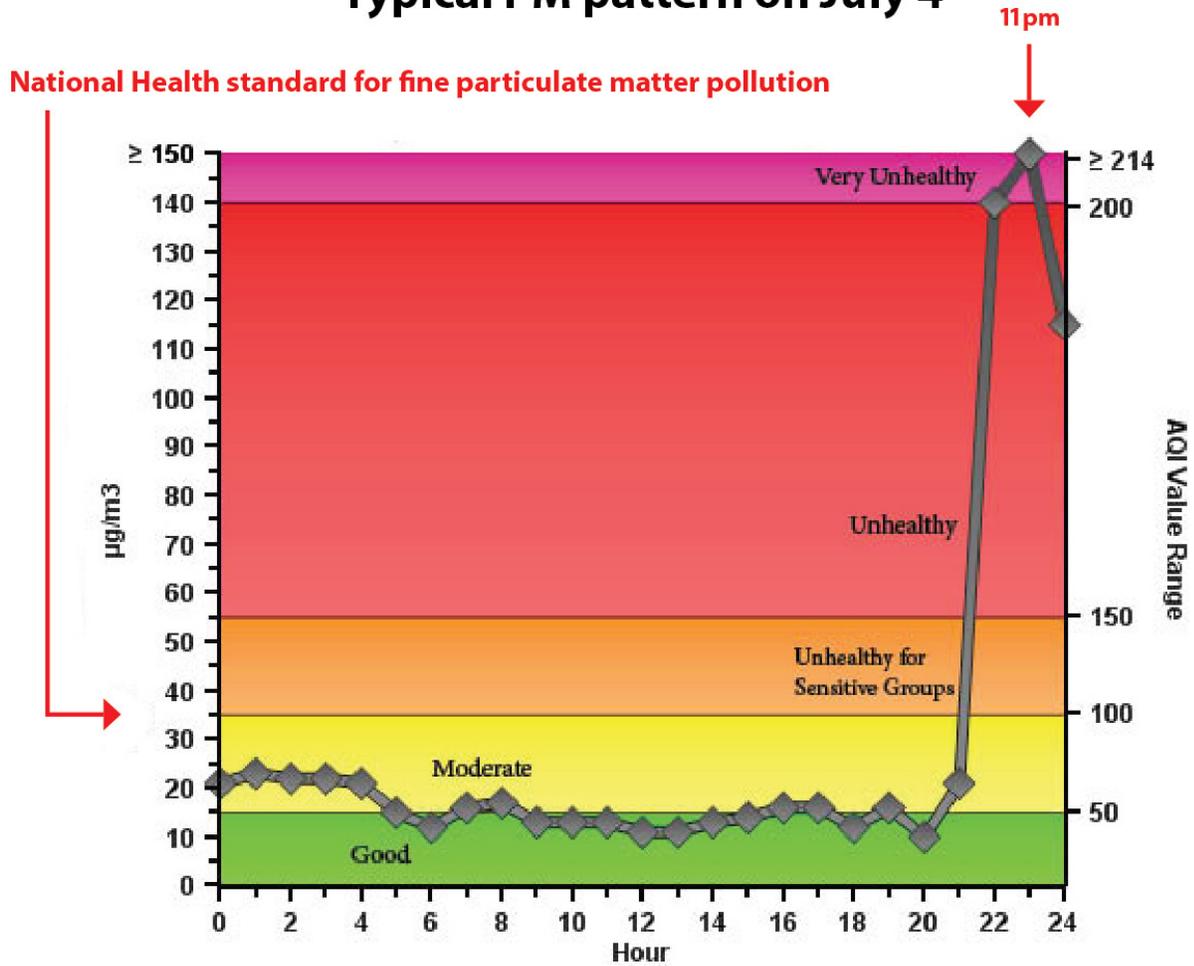
Air quality in the Valley during summer is already burdened by ozone pollution, and fireworks emissions add to what already may be poor air quality. Air monitors throughout the Valley reflect spikes in particulate pollution every year following Fourth of July fireworks displays. (An attached graph illustrates a typical increase in PM following fireworks.)

The Air District’s Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) makes localized air quality data available from an extensive air-monitoring network. To subscribe to this free service, visit http://www.valleyair.org/Programs/RAAN/raan_landing.htm. Air-quality data is also available through a free iPhone app, Valley Air, available at the App Store or iTunes.

“Refraining from fireworks use will not only have a positive effect on air quality, but will also ensure that you, your family and your neighbors are safe from accidents and home fires, “ said Holt.

For more information about the Air District, call a regional office in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-392-5500).

Typical PM pattern on July 4



This graph illustrates a spike in particulate levels on July 4, 2011 in Turlock as a result of fireworks use. Similar impacts are seen throughout the Valley each July 4.