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Attn: Local news, weather, health and assignment editors

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Gusty winds prompt health caution *Potential elevated PM10 pose health concern*

Gusty winds are causing localized blowing dust, which can result in elevated concentrations of particulate matter 10 microns and smaller (PM10). Local air pollution officials are issuing a health cautionary statement effective Friday evening through Saturday for Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley air basin portion of Kern Counties.

Exposure to particulate pollution can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and bronchitis, increase risk of valley fever and increase risk of respiratory infections. Where conditions warrant, people with heart or lung disease should follow their doctors' advice for dealing with episodes of particulate exposure. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure or heavy exertion, depending on their local conditions.

For more information, visit www.valleyair.org or call a District office in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-392-5500).