

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 12, 2002

Contact: Josette Merced Bello
 Public Education
 Phone: (559) 230-5850
 Pager: (559) 446-7580

AIR DISTRICT ISSUES HEALTH ADVISORY

Due to high smog levels, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is issuing health advisories for this evening and tomorrow afternoon. Tonight's advisory will be in effect until 7:30 for southeast Fresno County including the cities of Dinuba, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger and Selma. Another advisory will be in effect tomorrow, Sept. 13, from 3-7:30 p.m. for those cities as well as the entire Fresno/Clovis metropolitan area. The District strongly recommends that everyone within the affected areas avoid rigorous outdoor activities during these times.

In the interest of student and faculty safety, schools in the affected areas should discontinue all outdoor exercise for the duration of the advisory. Anyone scheduled to participate in such activities should make alternate plans to minimize exposure to ground-level ozone by staying indoors during the advisory period.

Ground-level ozone is an odorless, colorless gas produced when oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds are exposed to heat and sunlight. It is a lung irritant that can cause or aggravate heart or respiratory problems, and cause fatigue, headache, nausea, throat irritation, coughing, and chest pain.

Since vehicle exhaust contributes significantly to the formation of ozone, the public can help by carpooling, postponing unnecessary vehicle use, combining trips or using

(more)

public transportation. Postponing the use of all gasoline-powered engines such as lawnmowers, leafblowers, chainsaws and recreational vehicles today and tomorrow can also make an immediate impact on air quality.

Additionally, the District requests that Valley residents reduce the use of charcoal lighter fluids, oil-based paints and other products high in volatile organic compounds.

For the daily air quality status, the public may call 1-800-SMOG INFO (766-4463) or log onto www.valleyair.org.