

**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**Air District issues first health advisory of summer for
Arvin, Edison and Kern County foothills**

Air pollution levels are forecast to reach high, unhealthy peaks today in areas of the Valley, leading Air Pollution Control Officer David L. Crow to issue a health advisory for the Arvin, Edison and Kern County foothill areas. Residents in these areas are urged to seriously limit outdoor activities between now and 7 p.m. this evening.

This is the earliest in the ozone season the Air District has issued a health advisory since the early 1990's.

In the interest of student and faculty safety, schools in the advisory areas should discontinue all outdoor activities for the duration of the episode. Anyone scheduled to participate in such activities should make alternate plans to minimize exposure to smog by staying indoors during the advisory period. If outdoor activities absolutely can't be avoided, residents should avoid exerting themselves or otherwise increasing their breathing rates.

Ground-level ozone, the primary component of smog, 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.

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“A high pressure system over the San Joaquin Valley has trapped emissions creating unhealthy ozone levels downwind of Bakersfield in the Arvin/Edison area,” said Air District Meteorologist Evan Shipp.

In an effort to reduce pollution levels immediately, Crow is also calling on everyone in the Valley to immediately reduce emissions. Since vehicle exhaust contributes significantly to the formation of ozone, the public can help by eliminating unnecessary vehicle use or combining essential car use into a single trip. Residents are also encouraged to drive smarter. Driving changes that can reduce emissions include:

- Accelerating gradually.
- Using cruise control on the highway.
- Obeying the speed limit.
- Combining your errands into one trip.
- Keeping your car tuned and supporting the Smog Check Program.
- Avoiding “topping off” at the gas pump.

The daily air quality forecast is available by calling 1-800-SMOG INFO (766-4463) or online at www.valleyair.org. The air quality information is updated daily after 4 p.m.