

# News Release

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For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley  
Air Pollution  
Control District

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## **Air District shakes dust off rule for construction activities**

On the one-year anniversary of amendments made to regulations regarding fugitive dust, the Air District reminds builders, contractors and excavators to adhere to rules involving any construction, demolition, excavation and other earthmoving activities.

In order to protect public health in the Valley, a dust-control plan approved by the Air District is required before most construction-related projects can begin. Anyone who submits a dust plan is also required to attend a three-hour dust-control training workshop conducted by the Air District. Attendees must register before attending the class.

The fugitive dust rule (Rule 8021) is designed to limit dust emissions from construction, demolition, excavation, extraction and other earthmoving activities. It was adopted in November 2001 and amended in August 2004 with more stringent measures to control air pollution problems resulting from rapid growth and development in the Valley air basin.

Some of the ways that dust can be suppressed include:

- Applying water to unpaved areas;
- Constructing wind barriers;
- Restricting vehicle access to unpaved areas; and
- Preventing dirt or mud from being tracked out on to public roads.

The San Joaquin Valley fails to meet federal and state health-based standards for particulate matter pollution measuring 10 microns and smaller. A micron is one-millionth of a meter, and ten microns is about one-seventh the width of a strand of human hair. Particles this small can be harmful to human health.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern. For more information on classes or a copy of the rule, visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400, Fresno (559) 230-6000 and Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.

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