

News Release

For immediate release

8-22-11

**Attn: Local news, health, weather
and assignment editors**



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District declares Air Alert beginning Tuesday *First ozone episode spans six days*

The Valley air basin is in an Air Alert episode from **Tuesday, Aug. 23 to Sunday, Aug. 28**. This includes the counties of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and portions of Kern.

This Air Alert episode is being called because the Valley is experiencing conditions, such as increased emissions load, high temperatures and stagnant air flow, that lead to ozone formation. High ozone levels put the Valley at risk for exceeding health-based ozone standards that in turn trigger federal monetary penalties.

There are steps residents and businesses can take to prevent this. Reducing vehicle use is an important way to reduce these emissions.

Residents can reduce smog-forming emissions by:

- Refraining from idling when dropping off/picking up students
- Carpooling, vanpooling or alternate transportation
- Refraining from using drive-through services

Businesses and municipalities can reduce emissions by:

- Shifting operations to early morning or late evening (lawn care)
- Offering flexible work schedules
- Promoting carpools and vanpools for employees
- Implementing telecommuting
- Becoming a Healthy Air Living Partner

For more information about Air Alerts, please visit

http://www.valleyair.org/AirAlert/AirAlert_Landing.htm. To sign up for a free subscription to the Air Alert email notification system please visit <http://www.valleyair.org/lists/list.htm>. To receive information about becoming a Healthy Air Living Partner, please visit www.healthyairliving.com.

The District will send out mid-morning media updates throughout the Air Alert episode. Please contact the District for Air Alert graphics.