

News Release

For immediate release

9-30-11

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



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Air Alert update

Air Alert extended through Friday

Valley air officials are extending the Air Alert through Friday, Sept. 30, due to today's high ozone levels and the possibility of additional high levels tomorrow. Although better dispersion conditions are anticipated on Friday, the air basin still faces the possibility of exceeding the federal 1-hour ozone standard. The Air Alert includes San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and portions of Kern counties. Today, the Valley saw the second exceedance of the 1-hour ozone standard in Clovis and the third exceedance in south Fresno this year.

Air Alert episodes are called when conditions could lead to ozone levels that potentially exceed the federal 1-hour ozone standard of 125 parts per billion (ppb) and trigger substantial federal monetary penalties.

This is the fourth Air Alert episode of the season and it may be the last of the year, as ozone season is ending. Despite violations of the 1-hour ozone standard this summer, the past two summers have been the cleanest on record for the air basin for both the 1-hour and the more health-protective 8-hour federal ozone standards.

About 80 percent of the Valley's ozone-forming emissions are produced by vehicle use. Residents can reduce smog-forming emissions by refraining from idling when dropping off or picking up students, carpooling or vanpooling, and refraining from using drive-through services.

Businesses and municipalities can reduce emissions by shifting operations to early morning or late evening, as in lawn care; offering flexible work schedules, and encouraging carpools and vanpools for employees. Businesses can also enroll at no cost in the Healthy Air Living Partner program.

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.