

News Release

For immediate release
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**Attn: Local news, health, weather
and assignment editors**



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Air Alert episode continues

Ozone levels spike on Tuesday

Public assistance is needed to avoid 1-hour ozone exceedance

The Valley air basin continues to be in an Air Alert episode through Thursday, Sept. 8. This includes the counties of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and portions of Kern.

Pollution levels spiked on Tuesday at 119 ppb in the Fresno area. A reading of 125 ppb is considered a violation of the federal 1-hour ozone standard. High temperature, ozone build-up and lack of atmospheric mixing have brought about an extremely high risk for a possible exceedance on Wednesday, Sept. 7. The Valley Air District is urging all Valley residents to take action to reduce their emissions during this critical time.

Air Alert episodes are called when conditions may lead to ozone formation that results in exceeding health-based ozone standards. 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

The District will issue regular updates during this episode.

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>. For information about becoming a Healthy Air Living Partner, please visit www.healthyairliving.com