

Brrrr, temperatures take a dive in valley, foothills

Modesto Bee, Friday, Nov. 9, 2012

At last, it's time to break out the sweaters and the boots. The Northern San Joaquin Valley and foothills Thursday experienced a big drop in temperatures after an early part of the week that saw us in the 80s.

The high Thursday was only 64 in downtown Modesto. And some rain is expected to arrive along with the cold. Colder conditions mean snow at lower elevations in the mountains. Snowfall is predicted as low as Twain Harte over the next couple of days. Today, forecasters predict a good chance of showers and thunderstorms, with a high of only 56.

Come the weekend, conditions are expected to be clear but cold, with highs in the high 50s. San Joaquin Valley air officials also warned about the health effects of gusty winds on those with asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory infections

Winds prompt health alert by air district

Bakersfield Californian, Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is cautioning residents today -- especially those with health problems, children and older adults -- about gusty winds that are expected to kick up dust into the evening.

Winds are expected to be strongest in the western and southern parts of the San Joaquin Valley, according to a news release from the air district.

The wind and dust can result in unhealthy concentrations of particulate matter, which can cause serious health problems, trigger asthma attacks and bronchitis, aggravate lung disease and increase risk of respiratory infections.

People with heart or lung disease are advised to follow their doctors' orders about dealing with unhealthy air quality. Older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure or heavy exertion, according to the news release.

Cool blast from north threatens rain for Valley

By Angel Moreno, staff writer

Fresno Bee, Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012

The Valley will only get colder after Thursday's temperatures plunged 20 degrees from Wednesday's 83-degree mark, with rain and snow expected today and possibly into Saturday, the National Weather Service said.

A cold front from the Gulf of Alaska is responsible for the drastic drop in temperature. The system is expected to keep the weather chilly and bring light rain to the Valley and snow to the foothills, said meteorologist Daniel Harty.

Daytime highs are expected to be in the mid-50s and with overnight lows in the mid-30s for the next few days.

There is a 30% to 40% chance of showers throughout the Valley, Harty said.

Parts of the Valley could get one-tenth of an inch of rain, with isolated showers dropping a quarter-inch of rain, Harty said.

Snow levels are expected to drop below 4,000 feet, Harty said. Mountain communities should expect even lower temperatures, with highs in the 30s and lows in the teens.

Temperatures are expected to remain below normal going into next week, Harty said.

Thursday's winds gusted to 28 mph, kicking up dust particles from freshly plowed fields and loose soils, resulting in an air-quality alert by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

Air officials warned Valley residents from San Joaquin to parts of Kern counties to use caution outdoors because of unhealthy concentrations of particulates in the air that can cause serious health problems.

The tiny particulates can aggravate lung diseases, trigger asthma attacks and bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections in people who are exposed.