

Wind prompts health warning in Northern San Joaquin Valley

Modesto Bee, Wednesday, May 1, 2013

NORTHERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY -- Yet another windy Tuesday in the Northern San Joaquin Valley prompted local air pollution officials to issue a health cautionary statement through this morning in several counties, including Stanislaus, Merced and San Joaquin.

Blowing dust can result in unhealthy concentrations of particulate matter 10 microns and smaller, which in turn can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections.

Officials with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District issued the alert, suggesting that older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure or heavy exertion.

For more information, visit www.valleyair.org or call the district's Modesto office, (209) 557-6400.

Burn permits now required

Stockton Record, Wednesday, May 1, 2013

SAN ANDREAS - Starting at 8 a.m. today, residents within the boundaries of the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will be required to obtain permits before burning piles of brush, leaves and other yard debris.

The unit includes most of the occupied areas of Tuolumne and Calaveras counties as well as the eastern edges of San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties.

Permits are available during business hours Monday through Friday at Cal Fire stations, including the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit headquarters office at 785 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas.

Burn piles must be no more than 4 feet wide and four feet high. Burning can occur only on days declared eligible by local air pollution control districts. In Calaveras County, check burn day status by calling (209) 754-6600; in Tuolumne County, call (209) 533-5598; and in San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties, call (877) 429-2876.

Information: fire.ca.gov.