

VALLEY AIR NEWS

Summer is the ozone season. And although great strides have been made in air quality improvement, the Valley still fails to meet state and federal health-based standards for ozone pollution.

**SPARE
THE
AIR**

The season is here

There are many ways that individuals can help to reduce ozone pollution:

- Carpool whenever possible.
- Organize as many errands as possible into one vehicle trip. This is called "trip-linking."
- Keep your car in good working condition. A well-tuned vehicle saves gas and pollutes less.
- Maintain proper tire pressure. This also affects gas mileage.
- Don't top off your gas tank. This pushes gas into vapor recovery lines, and wastes your money.
- Walk, ride a bike or use public transportation.
- Inquire at work about telecommuting.
- Shop by phone, mail or the internet.
- When replacing your vehicle, look for the most fuel efficient, least polluting model.
- When replacing a gas-powered lawn mower, purchase an electric or push, reel mower. They work just as well, are lighter, quieter, and produce no air pollution.

For more information about the Spare the Air program, go to our web site or call the District office nearest you. In the Northern Region, call (209) 557-6400. In the Central Region, call (559) 230-5800. In the Southern Region, call (661) 326-6900.

The voluntary program, Spare the Air, one of the District's many strategies to reduce ground-level ozone, runs from June through September. The program raises public awareness and urges private citizens and businesses alike to take steps to help clean up the Valley's air.

700 businesses participate by advising employees when a Spare the Air day is forecast, organizing pollution-reducing activities and motivating employees to help clean the air with District-provided incentives.

A Spare the Air day is declared when air quality is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. The public is informed through local media, on the District's web site and participating Valley schools fly a red flag, signifying that air quality is unhealthy.

Anyone can sign up to receive daily air quality forecasts by e-mail via the Air District's web site. These forecast notifications include Spare the Air announcements.

Ozone is a corrosive gas that damages lung tissue. Ground-level ozone is formed when pollutants, such as vehicle emissions, vapors from unburned gasoline, solvents and livestock waste mix in the atmosphere and are baked by the sun.

McVaigh named Deputy Director



After less than one year of serving as the Air District's Director of Compliance, Rick McVaigh was appointed to the position of Deputy Director/Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer in May.

The spot was vacated in March when then-Deputy Director, Seyed Sadredin became Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO).

McVaigh began with the District upon its formation in 1992 as an air quality engineer. With him, he brought 12 years of engineering experience in the public and private sectors and a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, where he graduated in 1979.

He was shortly thereafter promoted to the position of senior engineer, and in 1994 became the District's Technical Services Manager. McVaigh was promoted to the position of Permit Services Manager in 1997 and held the position until becoming Director of Compliance in June of 2005.

"With the serious air quality issues we face in this Valley, I feel very good knowing that someone with Rick's expertise and experience is in this position," said Seyed Sadredin, APCO.