

VALLEY AIR NEWS

A monthly publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

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What to do during an

AIR ALERT!

As a public health agency, the Valley Air District works to improve air quality through meeting air-quality standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Falling just short of the 1-hour ozone standard by the 2010 deadline resulted in a \$12 DMV fee increase imposed last year on Valley drivers. This fee will remain in place until the Valley meets this ozone standard.

Air Alert was established to inform Valley residents when conditions are in place that may result in exceedances of this standard. When an Air Alert is issued, Valley residents and businesses are asked to make changes in their daily routines that may prevent the further build-up of ozone:

- Carpooling to school or work
- Taking the bus or riding a bike
- Walking your children to and from school instead of driving
- Refraining from vehicle idling, especially at schools
- Linking your trips – doing all your errands at once or postponing your errands
- Avoiding yard work with gas-powered lawn equipment
- Refraining from using drive-through services

Making one – or several – of these changes during an Air Alert can have a big impact on our air quality.

For more tips on how to help clean our air, visit www.valleyair.org and www.healthyairliving.com.

District wins Prestigious 'Pat' Brown Award for Tune In, Tune Up Program

The California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB), has awarded the Valley Air District with the 2012 Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Award for its innovation in collaboration and public-private partnerships for the Tune In & Tune Up car testing and repair program.

"We are deeply honored by this outstanding recognition, and extend our appreciation to Valley Clean Air Now," said Seyed Sadredin, District Executive Director and Air Pollution Control Officer. "This program is critical in addressing gross-polluting vehicle emissions, and was designed to serve and assist the most needy and economically disadvantaged residents of the San Joaquin Valley."

Motor vehicles account for 80 percent of the air basin's pollution.

The Valley Air District partners with Valley Clean Air Now for the Tune In & Tune Up events, providing free emissions testing and repair assistance for thousands of Valley vehicles annually. Within the past year, 3,000 repair vouchers have been issued through the program for up to \$500 each. The District's Governing Board recently authorized \$4 million for the program to hold even more events and increase voucher amounts to up to \$650 each.

Owners of eligible, participating vehicles that fail the tests at these events are issued vouchers to authorized repair shops.

Tune In & Tune Up is funded under the Polluting Automobile Scrap and Salvage Program (PASS). More information, including a schedule of upcoming Tune In & Tune Up events can be found at www.valleyair.org/Grant_Programs/pass/pass_eng.htm.



District holds EV Incentive workshops throughout Valley

The Valley Air District, partnering with the California Center for Sustainable Energy, held its second Drive Clean workshop on Sat., July 21, at the District's Modesto office. A similar workshop was conducted in March at the District's Fresno office to educate the public on the many incentives for purchasing new, electric vehicles currently available statewide, as well as incentives available exclusively to Valley residents.

Plans for a third workshop, in Bakersfield, are being explored. Information on the incentives offered by the District is available at www.valleyair.org/Grant_Programs/DriveClean.



Electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles are displayed in front of the Northern Region office in Modesto.