

VALLEY AIR NEWS

A publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
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Air District launches RAAN 2.0

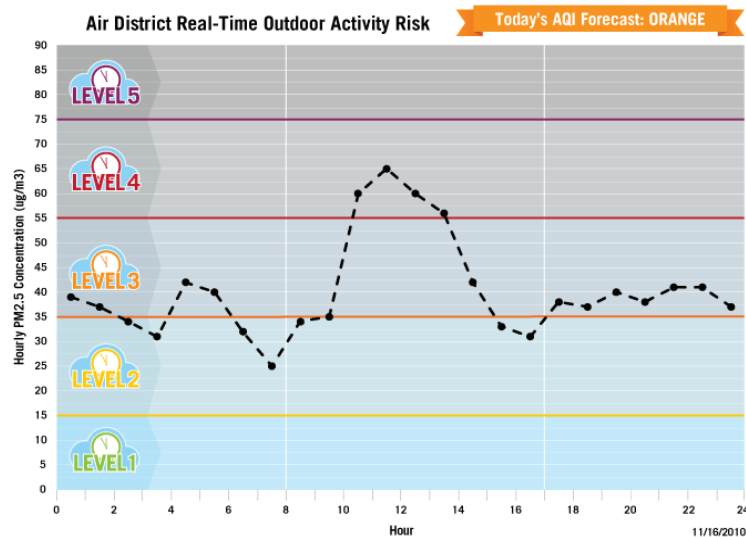
A new way of presenting air-quality information from the Real Time Air Quality Advisory Network (RAAN) makes it even more useful and easier to navigate.

Months of user evaluation and feedback led to the program's upgrades. RAAN rolled out 18 months ago, providing a critical everyday service to Valley residents through real-time, localized air quality data feeds. This information is used by personnel at school sites to determine outdoor activity on an hour-by-hour basis.

The new RAAN information presentation incorporates a Real-Time Outdoor Activity Risk (ROAR) scale, which provides guidance on degrees of outdoor exertion as correlated with air pollution levels. These levels can change throughout the day as air quality declines or improves.

RAAN is a complementary program to the Air Quality Flag program, which uses color-coded flags that correspond to the daily air quality forecast. The flag program is a general forecast program that provides the overall forecast for the entire day. RAAN, on the other hand, provides ongoing, real-time air quality data drawn from monitors closest to a given school site.

The day-long graph below illustrates how air quality can change from hour-to-hour and shows the different ROAR levels.



RAAN also reflects updated federal health standards for fine particulate matter (PM2.5), providing the most current health-protective information available.

Although developed with the Valley's schools in mind, RAAN is available at no charge to any Valley resident. For more information, a short tutorial video and the ability to subscribe to RAAN, please visit www.valleyair.org and click on the RAAN graphic.

Exceptional climate conditions call for stepped up enforcement of wood-burning rules

Residents of the San Joaquin Valley are being asked to pay close attention to residential wood-burning rules as the Valley experiences some of the worst wintertime air quality on record.

The La Niña weather pattern has caused extremely dry, stagnant conditions throughout the state. These conditions have caused the Air District to declare a record number of residential wood-burning prohibitions Valley-wide since the beginning of December.

Although the air District's Check Before You Burn Program has proven to be enormously successful at reducing the Valley's wintertime particulate problem and the past two wood-burning seasons have been the cleanest on record, meteorology has caused an upset for the 2011-12 season, resulting in historically poor air quality in the San Joaquin Valley.

Air District Executive Director Seyed Sadredin said that when conditions are this bad, there is not a lot that can be done to improve the situation, but that residents should do everything possible not to make it worse.

"It is critical for Valley residents to adhere to wood-burning prohibitions declared by the air district," he said.

Residents can always find the latest wood burning declaration and air quality forecast by visiting the District's website at www.valleyair.org or calling 1-800-766-4463 (1-800-SMOG-INFO).

Upcoming events

- **February 25, 2012 - Tune in & Tune Up** - Lemoore West Hills College
- **March 24, 2012 - Tune In & Tune Up** - Visalia College of the Sequoias
- **March 21, 2012 - Air Quality Conference** - Lawn Care Landscaping and Air Quality, Raddisson Hotel Downtown Fresno

For more information on any of these events, contact any of the Valley Air District offices. In Modesto call 209-557-6400, in Fresno call 559-230-6000 and in Bakersfield, call 661-392-5500