District unveils new Healthy Air Living website

Valley residents of all ages are encouraged to visit the new healthyairliving.com website for a variety of fresh ideas, programs and tools that guide community members in the many ways they can help clean our Valley’s air.

Healthyairliving.com explains what it means to live a “Healthy Air Life,” following these four key objectives:

- Reducing the number of vehicle miles traveled through the Valley each day.
- Reducing emissions from equipment and processes.
- Reducing emissions during times when air quality is poor.
- Encouraging higher energy efficiency and the development of cleaner energy sources.

Rather than emphasizing the rules and regulations which are already well-established in the San Joaquin Valley, Healthy Air Living focuses on the voluntary measures that not only businesses and employers can initiate, but also those that can be adopted by residents in their daily activities.

Living a “Healthy Air Life” addresses how residents can make an impact and save money in activities associated with traveling to and from work or school, yard care, cooking, aerosol sprays, vehicle idling, home heating and product purchases.

Making easy, money-saving changes in these areas will help the Valley meet our difficult air quality goals, improving public health and quality of life for all Valley residents.

It’s wildfire season

Summer heat, dry fields and fuel-heavy forests have brought with them, wildfire season.

In an effort to protect public health, the District makes information on wildfires impacting the San Joaquin Valley available to the public.

The Wildfire Information page links you with Cal Fire, InciWeb and the District’s Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN), to keep you advised of every stage of fires impacting the Valley, along with current air quality information and how to best protect yourself and your family from wildfire smoke.

Be aware that the RAAN system is designed to detect fine particulates that exist in smoke. On occasion, larger ash particles may be too large to be detected by our system. Therefore, an area may be experiencing ash impacts from potential fires yet it may not be reflected in the system.

Residents who are being impacted by smoke from wildfires are urged to limit outdoor activities, especially children and people with chronic heart and lung diseases.

Older adults, those with young children, or anyone with heart or lung diseases should talk to their doctors about whether or not they should leave the area.

To visit the Wildfire Information page, go to: www.valleyair.org/wildfires.