

News Release

02-13-08

For Immediate Release



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sections

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Winds prompt health warning

Air District cautions that there is potential for blowing dust

Gusty winds are expected to kick up dust throughout the San Joaquin Valley this afternoon and evening, causing the potential for high levels of localized particulate matter and prompting air-pollution officials to issue a cautionary statement.

Valley Air District inspectors have reported blowing dust in parts of the eight-county Valley air basin this afternoon. Residents in areas with blowing dust are advised to use caution this evening.

“The stagnant conditions quickly came to an end this afternoon, as a cold front brought gusty winds and blowing dust to the San Joaquin Valley,” said Valley Air District meteorologist Gary Arcemont.

Exposure to dust and other particle pollution can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, cause asthma attacks and acute bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections.

People with heart or lung diseases should follow their doctors’ advice for dealing with episodes of unhealthy air quality when dust is present. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure, strenuous activities or heavy exertion in affected areas. Everyone else should reduce prolonged exposure, strenuous activities or heavy exertion.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and portions of Kern. For more information, visit <http://www.valleyair.org/> or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400, Fresno (559) 230-6000 and Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.