

News Release

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For Immediate Release



TO:
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Winds prompt health warning

Air District cautions that there is potential for blowing dust

Gusty winds in the San Joaquin Valley have prompted local air-pollution officials to issue a health cautionary statement through Wednesday evening.

Winds in the San Joaquin Valley may produce areas of localized blowing dust throughout the Valley. Blowing dust can result in unhealthy concentrations of particulate matter 10 microns and smaller, or PM10.

“The stagnant conditions quickly came to an end this afternoon, as a cold front is bringing gusty winds and blowing dust to the San Joaquin Valley,” said Valley Air District Senior Air Quality Specialist Shawn Ferreria.

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 San Joaquin Valley air basin 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.