

News Release

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For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

TO:
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Blowing dust prompts caution

Local areas may see impact

Forecast gusty winds in the San Joaquin Valley have prompted air officials to issue a health cautionary statement from Tuesday morning through Wednesday.

Winds may produce local areas of blowing dust, increasing concentrations of particulate matter 10 microns and smaller (PM10).

“Strong winds are expected in various parts of the Valley, so we are urging residents to be aware of their local conditions and take appropriate precautions to protect their health,” said Shawn Ferreria, Senior Air Quality Specialist with the District.

Exposure to particulate pollution can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, cause asthma attacks and acute bronchitis and increase risk of respiratory infections. In people with heart disease, short-term exposure to particle pollution has been linked to heart attacks, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Residents throughout the Valley are advised to evaluate their local conditions and use caution through Wednesday where warranted. People with heart or lung disease should follow their doctors’ advice for dealing with episodes of elevated particulate matter.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley air basin portion of Kern. Call the nearest District office -- in Modesto at 209-557-6400, in Fresno at 559-230-6000 or in Bakersfield at 661-392-5500 -- or visit www.valleyair.org to learn more.