

News Release

7-2-09

For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

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Air officials urge fireworks restraint *Celebrations may elevate air pollution levels*

Valley Air District officials are reminding Valley residents that July 4 fireworks can temporarily increase air pollution and to take appropriate cautionary measures, as individual health conditions dictate.

“During prime time for fireworks [9 p.m. to midnight], we generally see spikes in levels of particulate pollution,” said Shawn Ferreria, senior air quality specialist for the Air District.

Particulate pollution is small pieces of matter that are airborne, including soot, ash and tiny droplets of liquid. Fine particle pollution 2.5 microns in diameter and smaller (PM2.5) invades the bloodstream and has been correlated with increased incidents of heart attacks and strokes. Particle pollution can be especially harmful to people with existing heart and lung conditions, as well as children and elderly people.

Although fireworks-induced levels of particulate matter typically dissipate within a few hours, residue can linger until the next morning. Valley residents should keep their own health status in mind when viewing fireworks and take appropriate precautionary measures.

The air quality forecast for July 4 by county will be available at 4:30 p.m. on July 3 at the District’s website, www.valleyair.org, and by calling 1-800 SMOG INFO (766-4463).

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley air basin portion of Kern. Visit www.valleyair.org to learn more.