

# News Release

For Immediate Release

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For: City and assignment editors



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## **Air District issues health caution** ***Blowing Dust prompts warning***

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

Winds in the Valley portion of Kern, Tulare, and Kings Counties may produce areas of localized blowing dust. Blowing dust can result in unhealthy concentrations of particulate matter 10 microns and smaller, or PM10.

Take precautions to protect your health if you are in an area of blowing dust," said Samir Sheikh, Planning Director for the Air District.

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

Residents in the Valley portion of Kern, Tulare, and Kings Counties are advised to use caution through this evening. People with heart or lung diseases should follow their doctors' advice for dealing with episodes of unhealthy air quality. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure, strenuous activities or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged exposure, strenuous activities or heavy exertion.

For more information about the Valley Air District, call a regional office: in Fresno, 559-230-6000; in Bakersfield, 661-392-5500; and in Modesto, 209-557-6400.

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