

News Release

For immediate release

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San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



Attn: Local news, weather, health and assignment editors

Northern, Central and Southern contact
Heather Heinks (559) 230-5898
Spanish-language contact
Ana Stone (559) 230-5851

Gusty winds prompt health caution

Blowing dust poses potential health concern Valleywide

Blowing dust as a result of developing gusty winds has prompted local air pollution officials to issue a health cautionary statement this afternoon through Thursday throughout the eight-county air basin: **San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley portion of Kern counties.**

Winds may produce areas of localized blowing dust, which can result in unhealthy concentrations of particulate matter 10 microns and smaller (PM10). Exposure to particulate pollution can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections.

Where conditions warrant, people with heart or lung disease should follow their doctors' advice for dealing with episodes of particulate exposure. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure or heavy exertion, depending on their local conditions.

For more information, visit www.valleyair.org or call a District office in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-392-5500).