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Attn: Local news, weather, health and assignment editors

Air Quality High Wind Advisory

Gusty wind and blowing dust pose potential health concern Valley-wide

Strong northwesterly winds are expected late Sunday night and have the potential to cause blowing dust and elevated PM10 concentrations through Tuesday evening. The District recommends that residents in affected areas remain indoors with window and doors closed, avoiding exposure to blowing dust.

Strong winds often cause localized blowing dust in areas where soils are exceptionally dry—creating 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.

To monitor PM10 levels in your area, visit www.airnow.gov or download the "EPA AirNow" app for android or iPhone. 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).