

District warns of blowing dust through Thursday

Bakersfield Californian, Wednesday, June 25, 2014

The valley air district warned residents throughout the San Joaquin Valley, including in Kern County, Wednesday that high winds will produce unhealthy blowing dust through Thursday.

The winds may whip up dust that can result in unhealthy air conditions, according to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

The valley portion of Kern County as well as Tulare, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno and Kings counties were cautioned.

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

People with heart or lung disease should follow their doctor's advice for dealing with episodes of blowing dust. Additionally, elderly residents and children should avoid prolonged exposure or heavy outdoor exertion.

The air district has warned that this could be a particularly dusty summer because of the drought.

Residents can check the nearest air monitor to determine local conditions at www.valleyair.org or call the Bakersfield office at 392-5500.

Gusty winds prompt health warning

Stockton Record, Wednesday, June 25, 2014

The cooler temperatures may be appealing, but today they come with gusty winds that have prompted the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to issue a health warning for San Joaquin and other counties.

Blowing dust can cause health problems.

The health warning for San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings Tulare and the Valley portion of Kern counties is in effect from this afternoon through Thursday.

The gusts might kick up particulate matter that can aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and bronchitis or increase risk of respiratory infections.

People with heart or lung disease should follow their doctors' advice on dealing with particulate exposure. Also older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure to the blowing dust or heavy exertion, if local conditions warrant.

Gusty winds prompt health caution

Modesto Bee, Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Blowing dust from gusty winds has prompted air pollution officials to issue a health cautionary statement through Thursday throughout the eight-county air basin: Stanislaus, San Joaquin, 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 <http://www.valleyair.org> or call the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District office in Modesto, (209) 557-6400.

Air Quality Alert

U.S. National Weather Service, AccuWeather.com, Wednesday, June 25, 2014

The Valley Air District has issued a health cautionary statement for San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern counties from this afternoon through tomorrow due to blowing dust caused by windy conditions.

Exposure to particle 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 and arrhythmias...according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Children and elderly people are also more susceptible to consequences of high particulate levels.

Stay indoors if possible. Avoid prolonged or strenuous outdoor physical activities to reduce the effects of unhealthy air.

Fresno's summer break ends next week -- temperatures to hit triple digits

By Rory Appleton, staff writer

The Fresno Bee, Modesto Bee and other papers, Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Fresno's break from scorching summer heat will come to an end next week.

While temperatures in Fresno will remain in the low 90s Thursday and Friday, by Sunday they're expected to hit triple digits, said Modesto Vasquez of the National Weather Service in Hanford.

From there, Fresno temperatures are expected to keep heading north. Monday's high is expected to reach 106, then climb to 108 on Tuesday, and 109 by Wednesday.

A small wind system is expected to drop temperatures back down to the high 90s or low 100s by the Fourth of July.

The city of Fresno will open four cooling centers from noon to 8 p.m. on days in which the forecast calls for temperatures above 105. The cooling centers are at Frank H. Ball Neighborhood Center, 760 Mayor Ave.; Ted C. Wills Community Center, 770 N. San Pablo Ave.; Mosqueda Community Center, 4670 E. Butler Ave.; and Pinedale Community Center, 7170 N. San Pablo Ave. Sierra Vista Mall in Clovis will also open as a cooling center.

Vasquez said Thursday's below-average temperatures are due to increased winds. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District warns those winds could pick up dust particles and pollution that may aggravate asthma, bronchitis and lung issues. The district advised people to avoid prolonged exposure to the wind.