

## **Weather alert: Blowing dust, possibility of rain**

Hanford Sentinel, Tuesday, June 9, 2015

The National Weather Service in Hanford is reporting that the gusty winds today are from a storm system heading to the area from the south.

The winds are blowing up dust and will probably be around for most of the afternoon, the weather station reports, and also there could be sprinkles and light showers from the system.

A better chance for rain, even a possibility of thunderstorms, happens Wednesday. The storm is part of the remnants of Hurricane Blanca. On Monday, Blanca made landfall on the Baja California Peninsula as a tropical storm after being downgraded from a Category 4 hurricane.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District issued a health caution alert Tuesday because of the blowing dust for Kings, Fresno, Tulare, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and part of Kern counties.

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

## **Heat fades as wild winds rise throughout Lodi**

By Kyla Cathey,

Lodi News-Sentinel, Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Temperatures cooled off on Tuesday, which should have been a relief after Monday's blistering heat.

But with the 12-degree drop came wild winds that tore down palm fronds and whipped up dust in the farmland outside the city.

The City of Lodi's Public Works department hadn't yet received any calls about downed branches, Director Wally Sandelin said.

"But we have one report of half a tree down," he said. Staff were working on clearing it.

Palm fronds had been torn from trees on the corner of California and Locust streets.

Public Works staff wouldn't be surprised to hear about more, Sandelin said. They often come down during storms.

And the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has issued a warning that the blowing dust can increase risk of lung infections or trigger asthma attacks or bronchitis.

So what's up with the weather?

The cooler temperatures, fierce winds and potential for scattered thunderstorms were stirred up by a combination of factors, said Carl Erickson, a meteorologist with Accuweather.com, a private weather forecasting service.

One of those was a small storm system centered off the California coast and moving eastward.

"It will produce some gusty winds throughout the region," Erickson said.

The wind was already gusting at 30 and even 40 mph in the region on Tuesday, and would likely continue through Wednesday, he said.

That storm could also set off thunderstorms and scattered showers throughout the region, though they would likely be spotty, he said.

Another factor was Hurricane Blanca, which set records when it made landfall in Baja California, Mexico earlier this week. Remnants of the storm were moving northward across the Southwest, Erickson said. While Lodi may not see much moisture on Wednesday, it will be cooler, with an expected high of 83 degrees, according to Accuweather.com. Then it will climb back toward the high 90s by Friday.