



VALLEY AIR NEWS

CSU teams up with District to teach public about air quality

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and the California State University, Fresno are offering a joint Certificate Award in Air Quality Management.

The Valley faces an important challenge in improving our air quality. This course offers the public, as well as environmental groups and business employees, a chance to discover how plans to clean the air are developed, implemented and enforced.

The program also covers the science behind air pollution, and how air pollution affects the social, health and, economic implications of the Valley and our world. The future challenges of air-quality management in the Valley will also be addressed.

A certificate will be awarded upon completion. No college credits are available for this course.

The program meets every other Friday from 8 am to noon beginning Sept. 22 and running through Dec. 15. Classes are held at the Air District offices in Fresno, with remote learning available in Modesto and Bakersfield.

This is just one more example of the District working through strategic partnerships to bring the public more knowledge regarding the important air quality issues facing the Valley.

Spare the Air season ends

The 10th annual Spare the Air season ends Sept. 30 with a slightly higher number of Spare the Air days this year, but totals still well under historical averages.

District-wide, there were 23 Spare the Air days declared between June 8 and the end of September, compared to 18 days last summer. A Spare the Air Day is declared on a county-by-county basis when air-quality is forecast to be unhealthy due to ozone (smog) levels.

While a slight increase, the number of Spare the Air days this summer still falls far short of the typical number of Spare the Air days anywhere in the District – around 40 – during the season.

“During the past couple of years, we have had an unprecedented low number of Spare the Air days,” said Jaime Holt, public administration administrator. Combined with recent major strides toward attainment of particulate pollution standards, this year’s ozone season is “something Valley residents can look at as an example of our progress,” she said.

Spare the Air days for 2006 in each of the District’s eight counties, compared with the previous three years, are:

County	2006	2005	2004	2003
Fresno	23	18	11	40
Kern	23	18	27	41
Kings	17	12	10	39
Madera	11	9	5	36
Merced	19	11	5	37
San Joaquin	10	6	3	15
Stanislaus	13	9	3	15
Tulare	23	18	15	39
District-wide	23	18	27	41

During a Spare the Air Day, residents of affected counties are asked to minimize driving and refrain from other emission-creating behaviors, such as using gas-powered lawn-care equipment or using lighter fluid on a barbecue. In addition, more than 700 Valley employers sign up as Spare the Air partners and agree to distribute air-quality information to their employees, as well as notify them when a Spare the Air Day is forecast. The Spare the Air forecast is available by county at the District’s website – www.valleyair.org -- and by toll-free number (1-800-SMOG INFO). Most media Valley-wide also publicize the daily air-quality forecast.

2006 San Joaquin Valley Air Quality Symposium

MISSION POSSIBLE

Charting the Forecast for Success

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Doubletree Hotel, Bakersfield

SAVE THE DATE!

This one day air quality symposium discusses how the Valley can maximize its resources, and work together to clean the air.

Special guests on environmental economics:

- Jane Hall, Ph.D. and Victor Brajer, Ph.D., CSU Fullerton
- Fred Lurmann, air quality expert.

Sessions include:

- Making the connection: Health-based standards and the District’s attainment plans,
- Challenges and strategies: Meeting the 8-hour ozone standard,
- Green contracting: Untapped potential of innovative solutions,
- Thinking outside the box: Alternative Compliance,
- Valley united: Working together to bring financial resources to the Valley.

\$45 registration fee: Includes all sessions, breakfast, lunch and vendor Court.

Visit the District’s web site in early October for more information at: www.valleyair.org.

E-mail contact: publicinformation@valleyair.org.