



VALLEY AIR NEWS

Residents and businesses step up to Spare the Air

The San Joaquin Valley ended the 2007 summer ozone season with the lowest number of Spare the Air days in five years.

A Valley-wide total of only six days were forecast to be unhealthy from June through September. By comparison, the Valley-wide total in 2003 was 41 days.

Spare the Air days are called in the summer when air quality is forecast to deteriorate to levels that are unhealthy (151 and higher on the Air Quality Index) or unhealthy for sensitive groups (101-150) in adjacent counties.

The District sites fewer emissions as a major contributor to the summer's improved air quality. "I want to give credit where it's due, which is to Valley residents and businesses, who have really stepped up to the challenge of reducing their emissions," said Seyed Sadredin, Executive Director of the Valley Air District.

Vehicle use contributes the majority of ozone-forming pollutants in the Valley. Ozone, the primary ingredient in smog, can exacerbate respiratory conditions and trigger asthma attacks. Children, the elderly and people with existing respiratory conditions are especially vulnerable, but when ozone reaches an unhealthy level, everybody is at risk.

On Spare the Air Days, residents in the affected counties are advised to limit outdoor exertion, especially between 3 and 7 p.m., when ozone levels usually are highest. Residents are also asked to voluntarily postpone emission-causing activities that contribute to deteriorating air quality. Some of the suggested Spare the Air alternatives are:

- Sharing a ride, taking public transportation, walking or biking instead of driving;
- Linking your trips (doing all your errands at one time);

- Postponing the use of gas-powered lawn equipment;
- Using an electric briquette igniter in stead of lighter fluid;
- Using water-based paints and solvents instead of oil-based products.

This year's Spare the Air days, by county, compared to previous years:

County	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Fresno	5	23	18	11	40
Kern	6	23	18	27	41
Kings	3	17	12	10	39
Madera	2	11	9	5	36
Merced	3	19	11	5	37
San Joaquin	1	10	6	3	15
Stanislaus	2	13	9	3	15
Tulare	6	23	18	15	39
District-wide	6	23	18	27	41

During Spare the Air season, forecasts and tips on how to Spare the Air are available at the District's website, www.valleyair.org; through the District's toll-free number, 1-800 SMOG INFO (766-4463); in most daily newspapers; and on TV and radio weather reports. The winter air-quality program, Check Before You Burn, begins Nov. 1. At that time, daily wood-burning forecasts will also be available from these same sources of information.

Air District symposium takes 'Fast Track'

The Valley Air District's symposium, "Taking the Fast Track: Continuing to Reach Air Quality Goals in the Valley," presented a clear picture of the valley's air-quality progress and challenges. About



Governing Board Chairman, Steve Worthley welcomes attendees.

200 stakeholders from throughout the valley attended the event October 3-4 at the Visalia Convention Center.

Speakers provided details about the District's innovative "Fast Track" strategy, which aims to meet federal health-based ozone standards

years ahead of the 2024 deadline. Presentations focused on key Fast Track measures, such as alternative methods for moving goods, including short-sea shipping and inland ports; how municipalities can encourage "green" contracting; and enlisting resources in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., to obtain crucial incentive funding for the valley.

Attendance doubled Thursday afternoon as symposium participants joined the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley Summit for a luncheon and work group meeting on air quality.

"The symposium provided an opportunity to share the latest information about our progress in cleaning up our air and encourage attendees to be an active part in our collaborative efforts to achieve our air-quality goals," said Seyed Sadredin, the District's Air Pollution Control Officer.



Carolina Simunovic of Fresno Metro Ministries addresses the panel during a session on "Municipalities and Their Air Pollution Footprint."