

VALLEY AIR NEWS

August 2018



Call for kids' calendar entries

Teachers and parents, the Valley Air District needs artwork from your talented students for its annual Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar. Deadline for submissions is October 1, 2018.

Students who are in kindergarten through 12th grade and live in one of the District's eight counties are invited to draw pictures of what it means to them to live a healthy air lifestyle. The artwork should include a clean air message in English or Spanish. Examples of healthy air living messages include:

- Healthy air starts with me!
- Turn off the engine while waiting to pick kids up from school
- Check before you burn
- Make one change for healthy air!
- Switch to a hybrid or electric car
- Ride your bike (or skateboard or scooter)
- Carpool/Share a ride to work
- Drive less to help clean the air
- Use an electric lawn mower instead of gas

Drawings must be original artwork completed by students and drawn horizontally on 8 1/2" x 11" white paper. Attach a completed contest entry form to the back of each artwork. Mail submissions to the Valley Air District, Attn: Calendar Contest, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726. For more information about the contest and to download bilingual entry forms, visit www.valleyair.org/kidscalendar

Back-to-school traffic can impact air quality

The first day of school is often full of excitement from the moment students are dropped off to when they're picked up. While kids are happy to see familiar faces and meet new friends as soon as they get out of their cars, they're also walking through and breathing in harmful emissions put out by cars with their engines idling.

During the back-to-school period, ozone levels can rise due to increased vehicle traffic as adults idle in their cars during pick-up and drop-off times. With days of triple-digit temperatures and multiple, major wildfires burning, the Valley Air District asks for the public's help in reducing the risk of spikes in ground-level ozone and exceeding federal air quality standards by being mindful of their contributions to poor air quality.

Residents and businesses are urged to reduce vehicle emissions by carpooling or vanpooling, driving less, refraining from idling their vehicles and avoiding the use of drive-through services. Other measures people can do to help offset rising ozone levels include moving ozone-creating activities to a better time, like moving lawn maintenance to early mornings.

To help minimize pollution associated with vehicle idling at schools, the District has partnered with hundreds of Valley public and private schools through the Healthy Air Living Schools program. The program provides free tools and materials to encourage parents to avoid idling when picking up or dropping off students.

In addition, the program educates schools on how to use the health-protective Real-Time Air Advisory Network (RAAN), which provides hourly air quality and corresponding outdoor activity recommendations to protect student health.

Schools, parents and residents can find out more about these resources by visiting healthyairliving.com/schools, emailing healthyairlivingschools@valleyair.org or calling (559) 230-6000.

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