

News Release

For immediate release

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For: local news, assignment and lifestyle editors



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Fireworks take toll on air quality ***Officials urge restraint for health, economy***

Valley Air District officials are urging residents to consider the short- and long-term consequences of fireworks-related air pollution over the upcoming holiday weekend.

Each year, dangerous particulate matter (PM) – small pieces of airborne material, including soot, ash and liquids – increases during Fourth of July fireworks displays. PM carries serious health effects, including respiratory disease, bronchitis and cardiac illness, and can especially affect people with pre-existing respiratory or cardiac illness, elderly people and children.

But additionally, these elevated PM levels may jeopardize the air basin's progress in meeting federal health-based standards, creating significant economic burdens for the Valley.

"We are asking residents to take their health, and that of their neighbors, into account when considering fireworks use," said Seyed Sadredin, the Air District's executive director and air pollution control officer. "The Valley has made significant progress in meeting important, health-based standards for PM, which could suffer setbacks as a result of pervasive firework use."

Failure to meet these federally mandated standards could result in federally mandated penalties for the air basin, including heavy economic burdens for Valley businesses. "Unfortunately, under federal law, air pollution caused by fireworks may lead to mandates for more expensive regulations on businesses. This is unfair," Sadredin said.

"The Valley's residents have come together to achieve cleaner air, which improves the quality of life for everyone," he said. "We are again asking people to take this into account over the Fourth of July."

WEEKEND MEDIA AVAILABILITY: Chief Communications Officer Jaime Holt will be available over the weekend for media calls at 559-284-6317.