

News Release

For immediate release

11-02-11

For: Local News, Health and
Weather sections



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Gusty winds prompt health caution in Kings, Tulare and parts of Kern counties

Gusty winds in the southern San Joaquin Valley are prompting local air officials to issue a health cautionary statement for three counties through Wednesday evening.

The health caution applies to **Kings, Tulare and the Valley portion of Kern counties**, effective immediately through early evening. Winds may produce areas of localized blowing dust, which can result in unhealthy concentrations of particulate matter 10 microns and smaller (PM10).

“If you are in an area that is experiencing blowing dust, take precautions to protect yourself,” said Samir Sheikh, who oversees the District’s air quality analysis section.

Wind-blown dust creates high concentrations of PM, which can cause health problems, including aggravating lung disease, triggering asthma attacks and acute bronchitis, and increasing the risk of respiratory infections.

Residents in areas of blowing dust are advised to use caution through this evening. People with heart or lung diseases should follow their doctors’ advice for dealing with episodes of unhealthy air quality. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure, strenuous activities or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged exposure, strenuous activities or heavy exertion.

For more information about the Air District, contact a regional office: in Fresno, at 559-230-6000, in Modesto, at 209-557-6400, or in Bakersfield, at 661-392-5500.