

News Release

For immediate release

06-21-12

For: Local News, Health and
Weather sections



Northern Media Contact- Modesto

Anthony Presto (209) 557-6472

Central District Media Contact - Fresno

Jaime Holt (559) 230-5850

Spanish language Media Contact

Maricela Velasquez (559) 230-5849

Winds prompt health caution

Blowing dust for the northern and western San Joaquin Valley

Strong to gusty northwest winds across the northern San Joaquin Valley have prompted local air-pollution officials to issue a health cautionary statement through this evening. These winds are forecast to strengthen across the western parts of the District later this afternoon.

Winds in **the northern and western part of the San Joaquin Valley** may produce areas of localized blowing dust. Blowing dust can result in unhealthy concentrations of particulate matter 10 microns and smaller, or PM10.

Exposure to particle pollution can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and acute bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections. For people with heart disease, short-term exposure to particle pollution has been linked to heart attacks and arrhythmia, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Residents in these areas are advised to use caution through this evening. People with heart or lung disease 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 Valley Air District, call a regional office: in Fresno, 559-230-6000; in Bakersfield, 661-392-5500; and in Modesto, 209-557-6400.