

News Release

For immediate release

9-9-13



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



Attn: Local news, weather and assignment editors

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Officials call Air Alert

Second episode of season begins as attainment moves closer

Increasing ozone levels and possible smoke impacts from lingering wildfires have prompted local air officials to declare the air basin's second Air Alert episode of 2013 beginning today (Monday, Sept. 9) and continuing through Wed., Sept. 11. The Air Alert is effective in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley portion of Kern counties.

Air Alerts are declared when conditions that lead to ozone formation – increased emissions, high temperatures and stagnant air flow – materialize in the Valley. High ozone levels are harmful to health and also put the Valley at risk for exceeding the 1-hour federal ozone standard, which can trigger an annual \$29 million federal penalty. This penalty is paid by Valley drivers in the form of a \$12 addition to their DMV registration fee plus increased fees on Valley businesses.

The air basin is on the threshold of attaining this 1-hour standard if no exceedances are recorded through the end of September.

“We are at an extremely critical point in our journey to meet this standard,” said Seyed Sadredin, the Air District's executive director and air pollution control officer. “As we get nearer to the end of ozone season, it becomes even more important to avoid an exceedance.”

Episodes of late-summer high ozone are correlated to back-to-school traffic and increased vehicle idling, in particular.

Steps residents can take to reduce ozone levels include refraining from idling when dropping off/picking up students, carpooling, vanpooling and using alternate transportation, and refraining from using drive-through services.

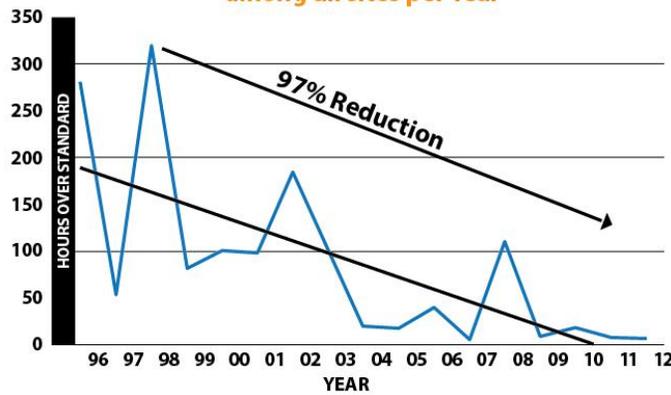
Businesses and municipalities can reduce emissions by shifting operations to early morning or late evening, when ozone levels are lower, offering flexible work schedules, promoting carpools and vanpools for employees, and becoming a Healthy Air Living partner.

To receive notification of an Air Alert, please call 1-800 SMOG INFO (766-4463), visit the Air District's website at www.valleyair.org, or subscribe to the free automated Air Alert email list at www.valleyair.org/list.list.htm.

AIR ALERT!

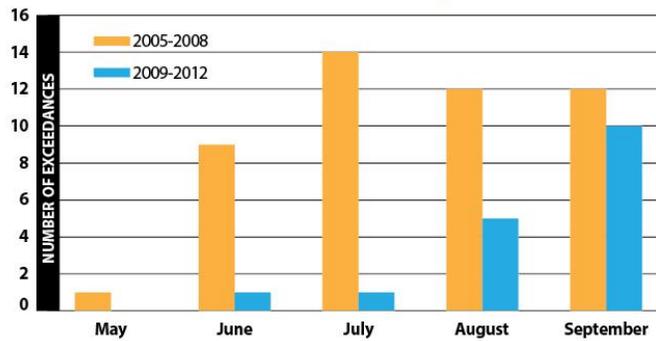
1-Hour Ozone Progress

Total Hours over the 1-hour Ozone Standard among all sites per Year



Exceedance Days Match School Traffic Time of Year

Number of Exceedances per Month



Exceedance Hours Match School Traffic Time of Day

Window of Hours when 1-Hour Ozone Exceedances Occur

