

News Release

For immediate release

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Attn: Local news, weather and assignment editors



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Gusty winds prompt health caution

Blowing dust poses potential health concern for western, southern Valley

Blowing dust as a result of gusty winds has prompted local air-pollution officials to issue a health cautionary statement through Friday for the western and southern portions of the San Joaquin Valley.

Winds may add to the burden of particulate matter already in the air basin and produce areas of localized blowing dust, which can result in unhealthy concentrations of particulate matter 10 microns and smaller (PM10). Exposure to particulate pollution can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections.

Where conditions warrant, people with heart or lung disease should follow their doctors' advice for dealing with episodes of particulate exposure. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure or heavy exertion, depending on their local conditions.

Residents can check the nearest air monitor to their location to determine localized conditions. Visit the Real-time Air Advisory Network page on the District's website to subscribe for free:

http://www.valleyair.org/Programs/RAAN/raan_landing.htm.

For more information, visit www.valleyair.org or call a District office in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-392-5500).