

News Release

For immediate release

Tuesday, June 10, 2014



Attn: Local news, weather, health and assignment editors

**Northern, Central and Southern contact –
Fresno**

Jaime Holt (559) 230-5850

Spanish-language media contact

Ana Stone (559) 230-5851

Gusty winds prompt health caution

Blowing dust poses potential health concern for the western, southern Valley

Blowing dust as a result of developing gusty winds has prompted local air pollution officials to issue a health cautionary statement this afternoon through the early hours of Wednesday morning in the following areas of the air basin: the western portions of **San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno and Kings Counties, and the entire Valley portion of Kern County.**

Winds may 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.

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).