

News Release

For immediate release

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San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Air officials urge July 4 fireworks restraint *Annual displays elevate PM levels, threaten health*

Local air officials remind Valley residents that Independence Day fireworks increase levels of dangerous particulate matter (PM) and pose a health threat to themselves and their neighbors.

Fireworks emit large quantities of PM, including soot, ash and metals, which cause serious health impacts, especially to people with existing respiratory conditions, elderly people and small children.

Fine-particulate matter – PM2.5 – can invade the bloodstream and has been linked to heart attacks and stroke.

In addition, high levels of PM jeopardize the Valley's progress in meeting air-quality standards that protect public health.

"We're appealing to Valley residents to think about the impact of fireworks on their personal health and their neighbors' health," said Jaime Holt, the District's chief communications officer. "Each year, people suffer from serious health consequences of activities that are entirely preventable."

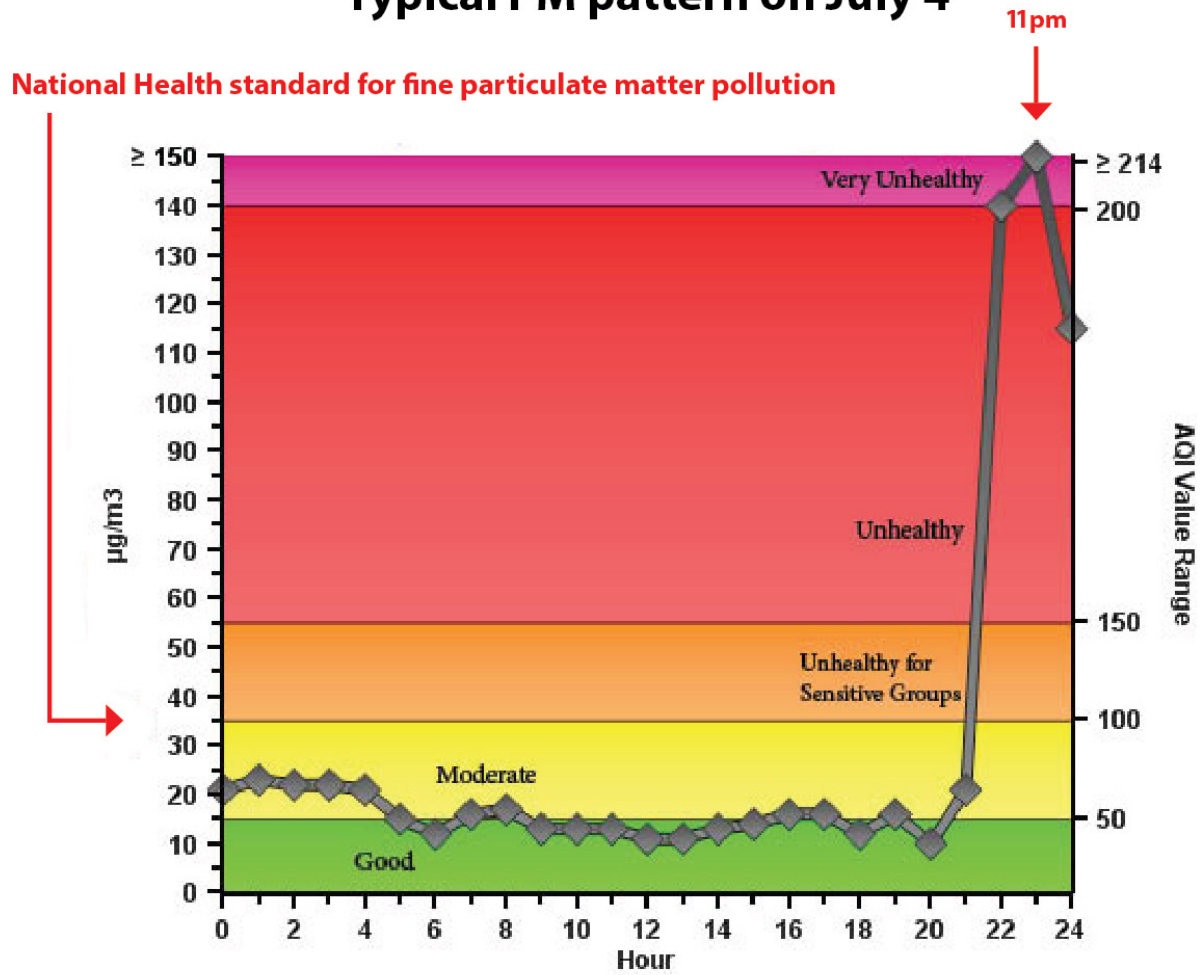
Air quality in the Valley during summer is already burdened by ozone pollution, and fireworks emissions add to what already may be poor air quality. Air monitors throughout the Valley reflect spikes in particulate pollution every year following Fourth of July fireworks displays. (An attached graph illustrates a typical increase in PM following fireworks.)

The Air District's Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) makes localized air quality data available from an extensive air-monitoring network. To subscribe to this free service, visit <http://www.valleyair.org/RAAN>. Air quality data is also available through a free iPhone app, Valley Air, available at the App Store or iTunes.

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

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Typical PM pattern on July 4



This graph illustrates a spike in particulate levels on July 4, 2011 in Turlock as a result of fireworks use. Similar impacts are seen throughout the Valley each July 4.