

**For immediate release 4-27-2017**

**Attn: Local news, weather, health and assignment editors**

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## **Gusty winds prompt health caution**

*Potential elevated PM10 and PM2.5 pose health concern*

Gusty winds are causing localized blowing dust and PM2.5, which can result in unhealthy concentrations of particulate matter 10 microns and smaller (PM10 and PM2.5). Local air pollution officials are issuing a health cautionary statement effective Thursday evening through Friday for Fresno, Kings and the Valley air basin portion of Kern Counties. Exposure to particulate pollution can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and bronchitis, increase risk of valley fever 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. While blowing dust can be visible, the smaller PM2.5 may not be visible to the human eye, therefore, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure or heavy exertion during these wind events.

For more information, visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) or call District staff at 559-309-3336.