

**For immediate release 02/13/2019**

Central/Southern regions

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

## **Gusty winds prompt health caution** *Potential elevated PM10 poses health concern*

Blowing dust as a result of gusty winds has prompted local air pollution officials to issue a health cautionary statement Wednesday afternoon through Thursday evening for **Tulare, Kings, and the valley air basin portion of Kern counties.**

A strong low pressure system off the Northern California coast is producing strong winds that will cause localized blowing dust in areas where soils are exceptionally dry—creating 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](http://www.valleyair.org) or call a District office in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-392-5500).