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Gusty winds prompt health caution

The potential for blowing dust as a result of gusty winds has prompted local air pollution officials to issue a health cautionary statement for this afternoon through this evening in **Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare counties and the Valley portion of Kern County.**

A low pressure system is moving through the region and will likely produce gusty winds as the cold front passes through the Valley. The strong winds will cause localized areas of blowing dust where soils are exceptionally dry this afternoon through this evening —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. Measurable precipitation has been observed today in Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties resulting in no elevated PM10 concentrations.

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).