

News Release

For immediate release

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For: Local News, Health and
Weather sections



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



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Officials urge fireworks restraint ***Annual activity takes toll on health, economy***

As the Fourth of July approaches, Valley Air District officials urge residents to consider the effect of fireworks on their neighbors' health and the Valley's economy.

During fireworks displays, dangerous particulate matter (PM) increases, pumping large quantities of airborne material, including soot, ash and liquids, into the Valley's air. This type of pollution causes serious health effects, including respiratory disease, bronchitis and cardiac illness. PM is especially harmful to people with existing respiratory or cardiac illness, elderly people and children.

Additionally, elevated level of PM jeopardizes the air basin's progress in meeting federal health-based standards, which creates economic burdens for the Valley.

"Fireworks use is harmful to public health. And it also carries potential economic fallout as an obstacle to attaining health-based standards," said Seyed Sadredin, the District's executive director and air pollution control officer.

In summer, the Valley's air can be already stressed by ozone (smog). Fireworks emissions add to the level of pollution in the air.

"Celebrate independence with your neighbors in an air-friendly way," Sadredin said. "Wave flags, not fireworks."

For more information about the Valley Air District, call a regional office: in Fresno, 559-230-6000; in Bakersfield, 661-392-5500; and in Modesto, 209-557-6400.

WEEKEND MEDIA AVAILABILITY: Chief Communications Officer Jaime Holt will be available over the weekend for media calls at 559-284-6317.