

Watch out for blowing dust in western Kern County

Staff reports

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Air district officials issued a health cautionary statement for western Kern County Thursday night for blowing dust.

The warning for blowing dust caused by gusty winds also applies to Kings County and western Fresno County, a news release said.

The winds could cause localized blowing dust, which can cause unhealthy concentrations of particulate matter 10 microns and smaller, officials of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District warned.

"Exposure to particulate pollution can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections," the news release said.

People with heart or lung disease should follow their physicians' advice for dealing with such episodes and older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure or heavy exertion.