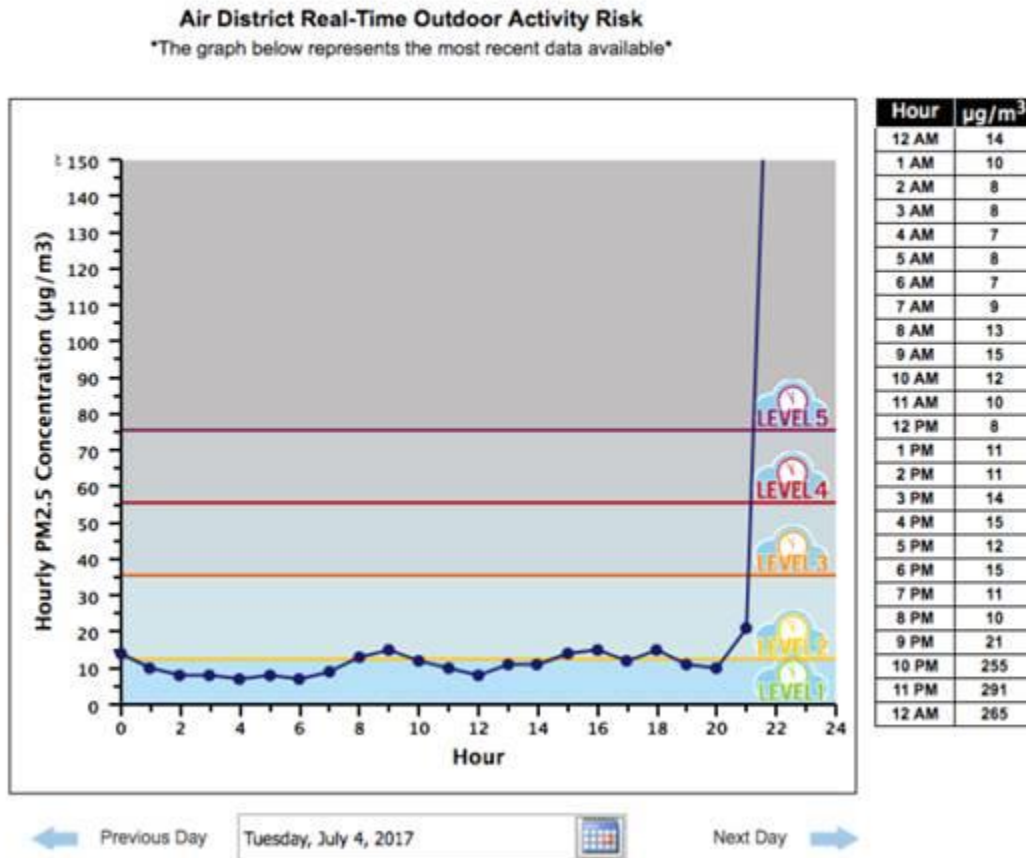


Excerpt from Bakersfield Californian, Thursday, July 6, 2017:  
**Things You Need To Know for July 6, 2017**

Central Bakersfield Air Monitoring Data  
 Hourly Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) Profile  
 As of Wednesday, July 5, 2017



**CELEBRATING WITH ‘VERY UNHEALTHY’ AIR**

On July 4, our PM2.5 levels shot through the roof, passing the "very unhealthy" Level 5, because of fireworks. Bakersfield is normally at Level 1.

Courtesy of San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

This community, like many across this great land, likes to celebrate the 4th of July with fireworks, but as you know, those fireworks greatly affect the valley’s air quality.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District provided us with a graph illustrating what happened to Bakersfield’s air the night of the 4th of July based on monitoring data. The monitor looked at particulate matter, or PM2.5, the tiny bits of soot and dust that are considered a serious health hazard.

Anything over Level 1 isn’t considered good, and on July 4, at around 9 p.m., the valley’s PM2.5 levels shot through the roof, surpassing the “very unhealthy” Level 5. (Bakersfield is normally at Level 1.) At 11 p.m., Bakersfield reached a peak of 291 micrograms per cubic meter of particulate matter in the air, more than eight times the federal 24-hour standard of 34 micrograms per cubic meter, according to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

By around 2 a.m. Wednesday morning, Bakersfield had dropped back down to Level 1.

Our recent air quality index is something to take seriously. These small particles can get into your bloodstream, leading to possible heart attacks and strokes.

Those 4th of July particulates have nowhere to go; they’ll stay in the air until early next week, says the air district. So limit your outdoor activities.