

Summer heat is here: Cool off close to home

By Calley Cederlof

Visalia Times Delta, Thursday, June 21, 2018

When looking at weather conditions several months in advance, outlooks aren't always 100 percent reliable.

Let's be honest, guessing tomorrow's weather isn't always reliable.

Still, the predicted trends for temperatures in the Valley this summer have one thing in common — blazing heat.

"While it's too early to be certain, long-range outlooks predict a 33 percent to 40 percent chance of above-average temperatures," said William Peterson, meteorologist technician at National Weather Service in Hanford.

For now, triple digits are here to stay.

"There is minor uncertainty as to how hot it will get over the weekend due to the difference with some of the computer model," said Scott Borgioli, WeatherAg chief meteorologist.

The rise in the mercury is being caused by "a strong, high pressure" system that will build through Sunday, which is expected to be the hottest day of the week, Borgioli added.

Saturday and Sunday are expected to reach highs between 104 and 108 degrees.

Even if it feels early, hitting triple digits in June isn't out of the ordinary.

In 2017, Visalia saw 50 days of 100-plus degrees. The annual average is 15 days, Borgioli said.

In 2016, that number was significantly fewer at 38 — still more than double the average.

"This time last year, it was a real rollercoaster," Peterson said. "The average is in the high 80s and we were in the mid-90s. Then we dropped June 11 to 72 degrees and were below or at average for the next few days. From that point on, we were way above average."

While the weather will be scorching, the air quality should remain healthy for the next few weeks, said Jaime Holt, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District chief communications officer.

"We generally don't see unhealthy air quality until late July, August, September and sometimes even into October," Holt said. "While ozone does correspond with high-temperature levels, the peak of high ozone levels usually comes during the August to September back-to-school window as we see more traffic and more vehicle idling."

Another summer occurrence that can negatively influence air quality: wildfires.

"Wildfire smoke can totally overwhelm the Valley, and in the worst cases, bring smoke into the Valley for several days in a row," Holt said. "During the summer...we ask folks to limit their driving, reduce vehicle idling and trip link whenever possible."

With temperatures only rising, local families are in search of ways to cool off.

Stockton port will get state's first mobile power station

By The Record

Stockton Record, Saturday, June 24, 2018

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is partnering with a maker of zero-emission off-road technologies to deploy the state's first mobile power stations at the Port of Stockton, officials announced last week, a move that will boost air quality around the port and improve public health.

"This project is a great example of how the cap-and-trade program is fighting climate change while improving local air quality and delivering benefits to disadvantaged communities," California Air Resources Board's Maritess Sicat said in a statement.

The MPS is an off-road battery-electric mobile platform that offers multifunction capabilities that can replace multiple pieces of single-purpose, conventional diesel off-road equipment, the Muncie, Indiana-based DANNAR said, and will help accelerate the commercial deployment of zero-emission off-road technologies. Because ports, airports, warehouses, and logistic centers throughout California today rely primarily on diesel technologies to move, load, and unload higher tonnage loads, the project will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, pollutants and diesel emissions to benefit surrounding disadvantaged communities, DANNAR officials say.

The port will be using two battery-electric 30,000-pound capacity forklifts with additional cargo handling attachments, including a multipurpose cargo truck bed and scissor-lift. ChargePoint, the world's largest network of electric vehicle charging stations, will install two DC fast-chargers at the port to support the equipment.

Funded in part by the California Air Resources Board through California Climate Investments, the project is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities.

The cap-and-trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. At least 35 percent of these investments are made in disadvantaged and low-income communities.

“The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is excited to support the deployment of zero-emission off-road equipment in our effort to reduce mobile source emissions, which remain the largest source of pollution in the Valley,” the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District said in a statement.