

VALLEY AIR NEWS

June 2018

Be aware, fireworks aren't good for our air

Every year, the Valley Air District regularly sees an increase in bad air days around the Fourth of July due to residents setting off fireworks around their neighborhoods.

Smoke, soot, ash and metals from fireworks spew large quantities of harmful particulate matter (PM), making the air particularly unhealthy for people with existing respiratory conditions, elderly people and small children. Fireworks also can cause serious health problems such as lung infections, bronchitis and cardiac illness.

On July 4th, the Valley Air District's air monitoring stations regularly capture high PM readings, reaching into the "Very Unhealthy" range. Some stations will see air quality readings spike to the "Hazardous" level, often around late evening, before falling a couple hours later. Last year, due to ongoing wildfires and atmospheric conditions, the evening fireworks caused PM readings to hit levels many times higher than the health based federal standards.

To help lessen the impact fireworks have on our air quality, the Valley Air District encourages residents to celebrate America's independence this summer by attending public fireworks displays instead of lighting up fireworks in their neighborhood.



Drive Clean isn't hard in the San Joaquin

Not sure what to do about your old gas guzzler or if it'll even pass smog? The Valley Air District has a program called Drive Clean in the San Joaquin to help you make the best decision for your vehicle that will benefit the air and your wallet.

The program, which has a new website coming soon, provides users information on three options: Repair, Replace and Rebate.

Repair (Ideal for vehicles that might not pass smog): Get information on the Valley Air District's Tune In Tune Up events for free emissions testing and repair vouchers for eligible participants.

Replace (Trade in an old dirty car for a cleaner one): Own a 1999 or older high polluting car that you're willing to give up? Let us help you replace it with a newer, fuel efficient gas powered vehicle, hybrid, plug-in hybrid or battery electric vehicle. Owners must meet program income limits and residency requirements.

Rebate (Money back for a new car with all-electric or hybrid technology): Find out about the Drive Clean! Rebate Program that gives money back to Valley residents and businesses when they purchase or lease certain new, clean-air vehicles. Depending upon the vehicle, residents can get up to \$3,000. Residents may also qualify for additional incentives offered by the State or local utilities.

Whether you're looking to fix, improve or get a new set of wheels, the Drive Clean in the San Joaquin program can provide car owners valuable information. For more information, call (559) 230-5800.

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