

For immediate release 4/9/2022

Attn: Local news, weather, health and assignment editors

Media Contact:

Heather Heinks (559) 994-7591

Spanish Media Contact:

Maricela Velasquez (559) 230-5849

Air Quality High Wind Advisory

Gusty winds and blowing dust pose potential health concern Valley-wide

Strong northwesterly winds are expected to continue through today and into this evening, followed by the potential for ongoing high winds into early next week as a significant temperature change in the Valley is anticipated. These high winds have the potential to cause blowing dust and elevated PM10 concentrations. The District recommends that residents in affected areas remain indoors with window and doors closed, avoiding exposure to blowing dust.

Strong winds often cause localized blowing dust in areas where soils are exceptionally dry—creating unhealthy concentrations of particulate matter 10 microns and smaller (PM10). Exposure to particulate pollution can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, trigger asthma attacks and bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections.

Where conditions warrant, people with heart or lung disease should follow their doctors' advice for dealing with episodes of particulate exposure. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure or heavy exertion, depending on their local conditions.

To monitor PM10 levels in your area, visit www.airnow.gov or download the “EPA AirNow” app for android or iPhone. For more information, visit www.valleyair.org or call a District office in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-392-5500).