

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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AIR DISTRICT ISSUES HEALTH ADVISORY

Fresno, CA – Due to very high levels of air pollution, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is issuing a health advisory to protect public health. The advisory will be in effect from 4 PM until 7 PM on August 11, 2004 for the southeastern part of the Valley portion of Kern County, including Arvin and Edison and surrounding areas. It is strongly recommended that everyone within the affected area avoid vigorous outdoor exercise during this period.

In the interest of student and faculty safety, schools in the affected areas should discontinue all outdoor activities for the duration of the advisory. Anyone scheduled to participate in such activities should make alternate plans to minimize exposure to ground-level ozone by staying indoors during the advisory period.

Ground-level ozone is an odorless, colorless gas produced when oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds are exposed to heat and sunlight. It is a lung irritant that can cause or aggravate heart or respiratory problems, and cause fatigue, headache, nausea, throat irritation, coughing, and chest pain.

Since vehicle exhaust contributes significantly to the formation of ozone, the public can help by postponing unnecessary vehicle use, trip-linking or using alternative transportation. Postponing the use of all gasoline-powered engines such as

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lawnmowers, leafblowers, chainsaws and recreational vehicles today and tomorrow can also make an immediate impact on air quality.

Additionally, the District requests that Valley residents reduce the use of charcoal lighter fluids, oil-based paints and other products high in volatile organic compounds.

For the daily air quality status, the public may call 1-800-SMOG INFO (766-4463). The information is updated daily after 4 p.m.

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