

News Release

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For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District

TO:

Local News, Health and Weather
sections

North District Media Contact – Modesto
Anthony Presto
(209) 557-6400

Central District Media Contact - Fresno
Jaime Holt
(559) 230-6000

South District Media Contact - Bakersfield
Brenda Turner
(661) 326-6900

Blowing dust prompts Valley-wide warning

Air pollution levels may climb tonight through Friday all across San Joaquin Valley

High winds are expected to kick up dust all throughout the San Joaquin Valley tonight and tomorrow, prompting air-pollution officials to issue a cautionary statement to the public.

Winds are expected to be moderately strong to gusty, due to a strong, dry, cold front moving in from the north. Soil that is dried out from the hot summer can easily be kicked up by the wind, presenting air-pollution and potential health problems.

“We’re seeing it all over the place,” said meteorologist Shawn Ferreira. “It would be nice if the wind came in a little slower because it would actually help mix the air and reduce pollution levels. But it’s coming in strong, creating dust problems.”

Exposure to dust and other particle pollution can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease, cause asthma attacks and acute bronchitis, and increase risk of respiratory infections.

Residents in affected areas are advised to use caution Thursday night and all day Friday.

People with heart or lung diseases should follow their doctors’ advice for dealing with episodes of unhealthy air quality when dust is present. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure, strenuous activities or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged exposure, strenuous activities or heavy exertion.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the valley portion of Kern. For more information, visit www.valleyair.org or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400, Fresno (559) 230-6000 and Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.

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