

# News Release

09-27-06

For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley  
Air Pollution  
Control District

**TO:**

**Local news sections**

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

Central District Media Contact - Fresno  
**Janelle Schneider**  
(559) 230-6000

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

## **Spare the Air season ends** **Declarations climb over '05 but still under averages**

(Fresno, CA) – The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Spare the Air season ends Sept. 30 with a slightly higher number of Spare the Air days this year, but totals still well under historical averages.

District-wide, there were 23 Spare the Air days declared between June 8 and the end of September, compared to 18 days last summer. A Spare the Air Day is declared on a county-by-county basis when air-quality is forecast to be unhealthy due to ozone (smog) levels.

While a slight increase, the number of Spare the Air days this summer still falls far short of the typical number of Spare the Air days anywhere in the District – around 40 – during the season.

“During the past couple of years, we have had an unprecedented low number of Spare the Air days,” said Jaime Holt, public administration administrator. Combined with recent major strides toward attainment of particulate pollution standards, this year’s ozone season is “something Valley residents can look at as an example of our progress,” she said.

Spare the Air days for 2006 in each of the District’s eight counties, compared with the previous three years, are:

<u>County</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Fresno	23	18	11	40
Kern	23	18	27	41
Kings	17	12	10	39
Madera	11	9	5	36
Merced	19	11	5	37
San Joaquin	10	6	3	15
Stanislaus	13	9	3	15
Tulare	23	18	15	39
District-wide	23	18	27	41

During a Spare the Air Day, residents of affected counties are asked to minimize driving and refrain from other emission-creating behaviors, such as using gas-powered lawn-care equipment or using lighter fluid on a barbecue. In addition, more than 700 Valley employers enrolled as Spare the Air partners distribute air-quality information to their employees, as well as notify them when a Spare the Air Day is forecast. The Spare the Air forecast is available by county at the District’s website – [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) -- and by toll-free number (1-800-SMOG INFO). Most media Valley-wide also publicize the daily air-quality forecast.

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](http://www.valleyair.org) or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400, Fresno (559) 230-6000 and Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.

###