

AIRALERT!



To Parents and/or Guardians:

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District needs your help with our new **Air Alert** Program!

What is an Air Alert?

The Air District is launching an Air Alert warning system to notify Valley residents when air quality may exceed a health-based ozone (smog) standard. This usually occurs during the hot summer months, especially when students return to school and traffic increases. Due to the unique nature of ozone transport throughout the Valley, Air Alerts will be called on a Valley-wide basis. Residents will be notified through traditional media, web-based media, and social networking. To sign up to receive an Air Alert notification by email, go to our website at <http://www.valleyair.org>.

What can you do?

Because high ozone levels are impacted by vehicle use, try to drive less during an Air Alert episode. One way to do this is to have children walk or ride their bike home from their neighborhood school. Riding the school bus and carpooling are great alternatives for students who live further away. And don't idle your vehicle when you drop off or pick up your children from school.

Parents also can reduce their vehicle use by carpooling, vanpooling, taking the bus, riding a bike, or walking. "Link" your trips by doing errands all at once instead of throughout the day. If possible, run errands in the morning or later in the evening since ozone levels peak in the late afternoon and early evening hours. Avoid drive-through services to prevent vehicle idling and reduce emissions that form ozone.

How do I protect my family's health?

An Air Alert episode may last from several hours to several days. It is important to understand how to protect your family's health in periods of bad air. Many schools participate in the Air District's School Flag Program and/or Real-Time Air Advisory Network (RAAN), which are tools school officials use to inform parents of the daily air quality and guide them in limiting outdoor activities when air pollution increases. The District's website also has the daily air quality forecast.

Why have an Air Alert program?

In addition to the serious health consequences of poor air quality, violations of the Federal one-hour ozone standard mean millions of dollars in additional fees for Valley drivers and businesses. To avoid this financial burden in the future, we need everyone's help to clean up our air now. For more information, call one of our regional offices at 559-230-6000 (Fresno), 209-557-6400 (Modesto), or 661-392-5500 (Bakersfield), or visit our website.



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



HEALTHY AIR LIVING™