

AIR QUALITY FLAG PROGRAM



The Air Quality Flag Program is a partnership between the American Lung Association of California and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. The goal of the program is to educate faculty, staff, students and parents on air quality and protect them from air pollution exposure. This will improve student health, decrease absenteeism and promote scholastic achievement.

The flag program provides schools with information and educational materials on air quality and the health impacts of prolonged exposure of air pollution free of charge. It also provides schools with flags that serve as a visual communicator of daily air quality conditions in the area. The flag notification system corresponds directly to the air quality indicators and health descriptors of the Air Quality Index. (AQI).

Schools in Fresno, Kings, Madera and San Joaquin Counties are eligible. Schools expressing interest will be selected on a number of factors. These factors include but are not limited to:

- School's level of commitment to the project
- History in promoting air quality awareness at the school and classroom levels
- Ability to provide an effective liaison between program staff, educators, faculty, students and parents
- Three year commitment to use the flags while school is in session
- Historical air pollution levels for each county

The American Lung Association of California will confer with educators and civic leaders to identify schools in underserved populations where environmental justice concerns may apply. To download an "Air Quality Flag Program Interest Form," log on to www.californialung.org.



Improving Life, One Breath at a Time

AIR QUALITY FLAG PROGRAM

in collaboration with



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

*Contact your local American Lung Association for more information
about air pollution and lung health:*

1-800-LUNG USA ■ www.amerilungcencal.org
info@amerilungcencal.org

AIR QUALITY FLAG PROGRAM



**RAISE A FLAG
FOR CLEAN AIR!**



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



AIR QUALITY **FLAG** PROGRAM

FLAGS ARE FLYING ALL OVER OUR VALLEY!

Air pollution in the San Joaquin valley affects us all. It is especially harmful to the elderly, people with lung or heart problems, and children whose lungs are still growing.

Did you know that in the state of California, an estimated 800,000 children, or one in seven, are affected by asthma?

San Joaquin Valley schools are participating in a community sponsored, school-based education and notification program to protect children from air pollution. The school receives four different flags with colors that correspond to the Air Quality Index (*see opposite page*).

Schools will raise a colored flag each day alerting the staff, students, parents, and the surrounding community of the air quality forecast. Participating schools will adjust their outdoor activities according to the daily air quality forecast ... helping to protect the health of students and staff.

SYMPTOMS OF EXPOSURE TO AIR POLLUTION

If you experience these symptoms — reduce exercise, stay indoors and seek medical attention if necessary:

Eye and/or Nose Irritation Shortness of Breath

Pain When Taking a Deep Breath

Headache Nausea Coughing Wheezing

YOU CAN HELP!

People with respiratory problems, compromised immune systems and even those individuals who exercise outdoors regularly are challenged when air quality is poor. People in these sensitive groups should pay particular attention to the Air Quality Index and adjust their outdoor activities accordingly.

Everyone can take steps that help reduce air pollution and therefore reduce the negative health effects on all Valley residents. Children can help by riding bicycles, rollerblading or walking instead of asking to be driven.

Help improve air quality, especially on UNHEALTHY Air Quality Flag days:

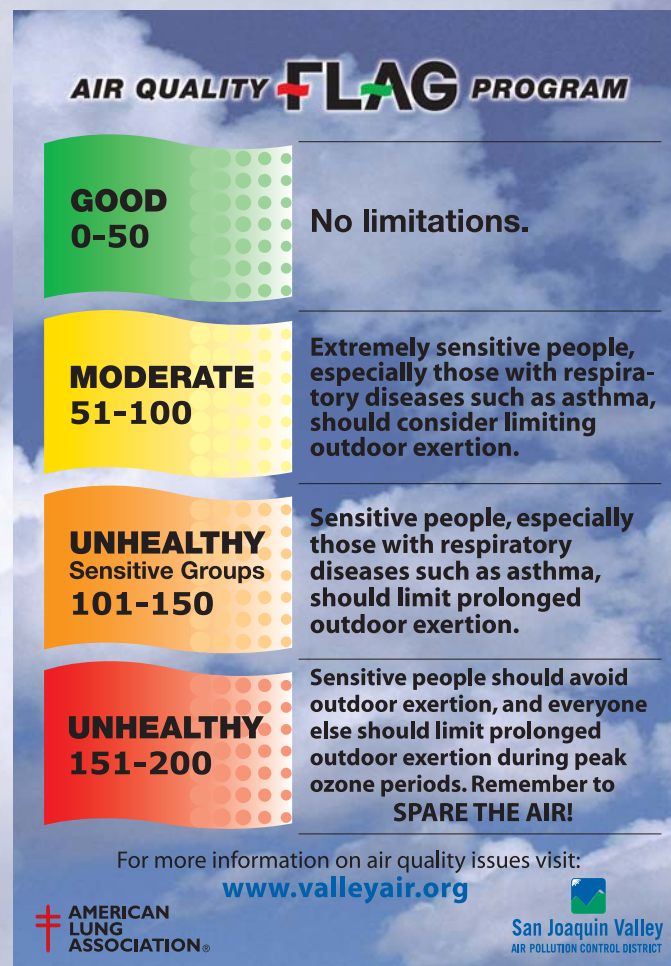
Drive less by combining errands into one trip ■ Carpool

Avoid using gas-powered lawn equipment

Always keep your car tuned up

If everyone does their part, we can clean up the Valley's air!

AIR QUALITY **FLAG** PROGRAM



This Air Quality Index magnet tells you what to consider based on the daily air quality forecast. Please affix to your refrigerator for easy viewing.

FIND YOUR AIR QUALITY FORECAST:

1-800-SMOG-INFO

www.valleyair.org

www.amerilungcencal.org

AIR QUALITY **FLAG** PROGRAM

GOOD
0-50

No limitations.

MODERATE
51-100

Extremely sensitive people, especially those with respiratory diseases such as asthma, should consider limiting outdoor exertion.

UNHEALTHY
Sensitive Groups
101-150

Sensitive people, especially those with respiratory diseases such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.

UNHEALTHY
151-200

Sensitive people should avoid outdoor exertion, and everyone else should limit prolonged outdoor exertion during peak ozone periods. Remember to
SPARE THE AIR!

For more information on air quality issues visit:

www.valleyair.org