

Unhealthy air forecasts continue for central San Joaquin Valley

By Nadia Pearl

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Fresno's unhealthy air quality will continue Sunday as stagnant weather is expected to continue hovering over the region.

The air quality forecast is 153 on the Air Quality Index, which measures in the "unhealthy" zone, according to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. When in the unhealthy zone, everyone is advised to reduce prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors as particle pollution levels can affect both sensitive and non-sensitive groups.

Air quality is categorized as unhealthy when the AQI measures between 150 to 200. Good air quality, on the other hand, is when the AQI is from 1 to 50.

Fresno County experienced 160 AQI on both Friday and Saturday. Madera, Kings and Tulare counties also recorded AQI in the unhealthy zone on those days, with forecasts predicting the same for Sunday.

Despite some light winds being expected, the hazy air conditions and patchy morning fog will remain the same Sunday and Monday, said Cindy Bean, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

Stagnant air under high pressure conditions means the winds will not be strong enough to push any bad air quality out of the Central Valley, Bean said.

Temperature wise, Fresno is expecting a high of 80 degrees Sunday and a high of 78 on Monday.

The banning of wood burning in the region will continue into Sunday for Kings and Tulare counties.

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