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Using Technology to Battle the Elements

April 30, 2009 - Air pollution can seriously affect your health - especially the health of older adults, children and people with a heart or lung disease, like asthma. Knowing the quality of air is not like knowing if it will rain. Instead, it is a matter of serious health concern. That's why the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District is encouraging residents to sign up for Enviroflash and be entered in a drawing for a rechargeable electric mower. This online tool is a great source for up-to-date local air quality information and using electric yard equipment can help reduce the creation of ozone.

"This extra incentive to win a rechargeable mower reinforces one of our spare the air tips to use electric yard equipment rather than the more polluting gas-powered equipment especially during the hot summer months," according to Executive Director Mat Ehrhardt.

Spare the Air season runs from May through October and residents who sign up will receive free air quality notifications when ozone levels are forecast to reach unhealthy levels. They will also receive alerts when special events such as smoke from wildfires and unhealthy levels of particle pollution occur. The system also provides useful tips on how to be proactive during unhealthy air days. Changing the time of day for activities or limiting exertion or duration are a few ways to help you and your family stay healthy.

Sign up for the free daily air quality e-mail alerts through EnviroFlash at <http://ysaqmd.enviroflash.org>. EnviroFlash helps the community stay better informed about air quality – and it helps individuals prepare for days when air quality is expected to be unhealthy. Only those who sign up by May 31, 2009 and are residents within the Yolo-Solano AQMD's jurisdiction will be eligible for the drawing for a rechargeable mower.

The Yolo-Solano AQMD is dedicated to protecting human health and property from the harmful effects of air pollution. For more information contact the District at 530-757-3650 or visit www.ysaqmd.org.

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