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HEALTHY SUMMER

June 14, 2010 – Looking forward to enjoying the great summer weather? The Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD) has some tips to maintain a healthy environment while enjoying the outdoors.

TIP 1: Bar-b-ques that use charcoal lighter fluid can add a not-so-healthy morsel to the air. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) contribute to ground-level ozone or better known as smog. Electric starters or chimney briquette starters work just as well without adding to air pollution. If you are in the market for a new bar-b-que this summer, consider a propane gas-powered unit.

TIP 2: When you are sprucing up your yard, use electric garden equipment whenever possible. The use of gas-powered lawn and garden equipment result in the spill of an estimated 17 million gallons of fuel each year. That gas evaporates into the air, helping to form smog. If you must use fuel, use it carefully and store it with a tight-fitting cap.

TIPS 3: Thinking of painting the house? Choose water-based paints, paint with rollers or brushes, properly dispose of paints and solvents, and seal paint containers tightly.

TIP 4: Taking a car trip? To reduce air pollution from your vehicle, change your oil and oil filter regularly. Keep tire pressure and alignment in order – it could improve gas mileage. Change your fuel filter and air filter once a year or every 12,000 miles. Monitor hoses, wiring and belts. Give your car regular tune-ups and check the crankcase breather element and emissions control devices.

The YSAQMD is dedicated to protecting human health and property from the harmful effects of air pollution. For information on how the community can work with the district to achieve and maintain healthful air quality for the residents call (530) 757-3650 or visit www.ysaqmd.org and to be informed about current air quality sign up for Enviroflash at <http://ysaqmd.enviroflash.org/>.

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