



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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NEWS

For Immediate Release
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SCAQMD Issues Ozone Advisory – Due to Heat Wave

In effect from Wednesday, July 25 through Friday, July 27.

Extremely high temperatures are expected to persist over the next several days throughout the South Coast Air Basin, increasing the likelihood of **Unhealthy** to **Very Unhealthy** air quality in many areas.

Levels of ground-level ozone – the predominant summertime pollutant – are most likely to reach the **Unhealthy** to **Very Unhealthy** level in the Santa Clarita Valley, the San Gabriel Mountains, the San Fernando and San Gabriel valleys, the Inland Empire and the San Bernardino Mountains.

While poor air quality is not unusual during summer months in the Southland, the National Weather Service has predicted a heat wave over the Southwest that will last through the end of week. Those conditions coupled with predicted atmospheric inversions that trap pollution near the surface may cause unusually high and persistent levels of poor air quality.

When air quality is **Unhealthy** and reaches an air quality index (AQI) range of 151 to 200, everyone may begin to experience some adverse health effects, and residents with higher sensitivity levels may experience more serious effects. When air quality is **Very Unhealthy** with an AQI range of 201 to 300, everyone in the region may experience more serious health effects.

Ozone air pollution can cause respiratory health problems, including trouble breathing, asthma attacks, and lung damage. Research also indicates that ozone exposure can increase the risk of premature death. Children, older adults, and people with asthma or COPD may be more sensitive to the health effects of ozone.

SCAQMD Advisory updates can be found at the following link:

<http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/air-quality/advisories/advisory.pdf>

To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories and forecasts by email, go to
<http://AirAlerts.org>

To view current air quality conditions by region in an interactive map, see

<http://www3.aqmd.gov/webappl/gisAQI2/home.aspx> or by phone, toll-free, at (866) 966-3293 (press 1 for English or 2 for Spanish, press 2, then enter your zip code)

What to Do When Air Pollution Reaches Unhealthful Levels:

- **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** Air Quality Index (AQI) is 101 - 150. Although the general public is not likely to be affected at this AQI range, people with heart or lung disease, older adults and children are at a greater risk from exposure to air pollution. People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
- **Unhealthy** AQI is 151 - 200. Everyone may begin to experience some adverse health effects, and members of the sensitive groups may experience more serious effects. People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
- **Very Unhealthy** AQI is 201 - 300. This would trigger a health alert signifying that everyone may experience more serious health effects. People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.

The SCAQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

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