



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 21, 2019

South Coast AQMD Extends Smoke Advisory Due to a Debris Fire in City of Thermal

Valid Monday October 21, 2019 through Tuesday October 22, 2019

This advisory is in effect through Tuesday Afternoon. South Coast AQMD will issue an update if additional information becomes available.

A large debris fire is burning near the intersection of Avenue 66 and Martinez Road in the city of Thermal in the Coachella Valley. The burn area is approximately 35 acres. Smoke from the fire has been impacting Thermal, La Quinta, and Mecca, as well as communities near the Salton Sea. South Coast AQMD's monitors in Thermal and Mecca as well as low-cost sensors have been showing PM2.5 concentrations in the **Unhealthy to Very Unhealthy** AQI levels at times since Sunday evening. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/y5bjzzak> to view current readings from the South Coast AQMD's monitor in Thermal and <https://tinyurl.com/y4y848tf> to view current readings from the South Coast AQMD's monitor in Mecca.

Wind directions are predicted to be from the southeast on Monday afternoon and then from the northwest on Monday evening and overnight into Tuesday morning. Wind directions will be from the west and northwest on Tuesday afternoon. This will push smoke to the north toward La Quinta and Thermal on Monday afternoon and to the southeast toward Oasis, Mecca, and the Salton Sea on Monday evening through Tuesday afternoon. Low mixing heights in the atmosphere overnight could lead to lower smoke plume rise and elevated ground level concentrations of PM2.5 in the early morning hours on Tuesday. If the fire continues to generate smoke, impacts are expected to continue throughout the Coachella Valley.

Overall, meteorological conditions may bring smoke and ash into portions of the Coachella Valley. Air quality may reach **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** or higher in areas directly impacted by smoke.

Areas of direct impacts and poor air quality may include portions of:

- **Riverside County:** Coachella Valley (Area 30)



In any area impacted by smoke: If you smell smoke or see ash due to a wildfire, limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed or seeking alternate shelter, and avoiding vigorous physical activity. For more tips on protecting yourself during a wildfire, see South Coast AQMD's Wildfire Smoke & Ash Health & Safety Tips page: <http://www.aqmd.gov/wildfire-health-info-smoke-tips>.

- South Coast AQMD Advisory updates can be found at the following link: www.aqmd.gov/advisory
- To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories and forecasts by email, go to www.AirAlerts.org
- To view current air quality conditions by region in an interactive map, see www.aqmd.gov/aqimap
- For real-time air quality information, maps, notifications and health alerts in your area, download our award-winning South Coast AQMD app at: www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp
- Air quality forecasts are available at <http://www.aqmd.gov/forecast>
- For a map of South Coast AQMD Forecast Areas, see <http://www.aqmd.gov/ForecastAreas>

South Coast AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at www.aqmd.gov, download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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