



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** October 10, 2019

## **South Coast AQMD Issues Smoke Advisory Due to Sandalwood and Reche Fires in Riverside County**

*Valid: Thursday, October 10 through Friday, October 11, 2019*

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

Two wildfires are burning in the Inland Empire region of Riverside County. The Sandalwood Fire is burning near Calimesa and the burn area was last reported at 500 acres with 0% containment. The Reche Fire is burning near Moreno Valley with a burn area last reported at 400 acres with 0% containment. Both fires have visible smoke production as of Thursday afternoon.

Strong winds from the east and northeast on Thursday evening are expected to transport smoke west into the areas near Riverside and Moreno Valley. After 10pm on Thursday night, wind speeds are expected to decrease. Winds overnight will continue to come from the east near the Sandalwood Fire, while winds near the Reche Fire are predicted to come from the north.

Wind speeds will increase again on Friday morning after 9 am and will be from the east. If both fires continue to generate smoke on Thursday evening through Friday morning, smoke may impact portions of the Inland Empire in Riverside County including Moreno Valley, Riverside, and Corona.

Currently South Coast AQMD monitors and low cost sensors are not showing elevated concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub> due to the wildfires. However, meteorological conditions overnight could lead to increased PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations. Please check the air quality on the South Coast AQMD website for current conditions.

Overall, meteorological conditions may bring smoke into portions of Riverside County. Air quality may reach Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or higher levels in areas directly impacted by smoke.

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

- **Riverside County:** Corona-Norco (Area 22), Metropolitan Riverside County (Area 23), Perris Valley (Area 24), Lake Elsinore (Area 25), Hemet-San Jacinto Valley (Area 28), San Gorgonio Pass (Area 29)



***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](http://www.aqmd.gov/advisory)
- To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories and forecasts by email, go to [www.AirAlerts.org](http://www.AirAlerts.org)
- To view current air quality conditions by region in an interactive map, see [www.aqmd.gov/aqimap](http://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](http://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](http://www.aqmd.gov), download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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