



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

www.aqmd.gov

@SouthCoastAQMD    

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 8, 2020

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Kim White, (909) 396-3456, Cell: (909) 323-9479

Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431

[press@aqmd.gov](mailto:press@aqmd.gov)

## **South Coast AQMD Continues Smoke Advisory Due to Apple Fire North of Cherry Valley**

***Valid: Saturday, August 08, 2020 through Sunday, August 09, 2020***

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

A fire named the Apple Fire is burning north of Cherry Valley in Riverside County. As of 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, the burn area was 32,412 acres with 35% containment. Current information on the Apple Fire can be found on the Incident Information System (InciWeb) at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6902/>.

### **Past and Current Smoke Impacts**

The Apple Fire continues to produce smoke this afternoon based on satellite imagery, webcam imagery and social media posts. Smoke production increased yesterday due to firefighting operations but have now decreased. Smoke impacts tend to be higher in the early morning, decreasing later in the morning. Both temporary regulatory monitors and a low-cost sensor in Desert Hot Springs reached the **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** category early on Saturday morning due to increased PM2.5 concentrations. As of Saturday afternoon, PM2.5 concentrations at all regulatory monitors and low-cost sensors in the Coachella Valley and San Gorgonio Pass are in the **Good to Moderate** category. Visit <https://www.aqmd.gov/aqdata> to view current air quality conditions.

### **Forecasted Smoke Impacts**

- The Apple Fire is predicted to produce less smoke during the next few days as fire activity decreases and firefighters continue to build control lines around the fire. Winds near the fire will be from the southwest during the afternoon on Saturday and during the day on Sunday. Winds will be from the west on Saturday evening through sunrise on Sunday morning.
- **San Gorgonio Pass (Area 29):** Most of the smoke impacts will continue to be concentrated at higher elevations near the fire. It is possible that some smoke may be transported down from

the higher elevations in the overnight hours. Winds from the southwest and west in the proximity of the fire are expected to continue at least for the next few days. Therefore,

- East San Bernardino Mountains (Area 38): Smoke impacts will continue near the fire and towards the east. While conditions may change, significant smoke impacts are not likely in Big Bear, based on model predictions.
- **Coachella Valley (Area 30):** Minor smoke impacts are expected to continue in the Northern Coachella Valley especially in the overnight hours when the plume is concentrated closer to the ground. Air quality will be a strong function of how much smoke gets transported north through the Morongo Valley and Yucca Valley vs. how much smoke gets transported south into Desert Hot Springs and the rest of the Coachella Valley. Model predictions indicate that smoke transport to the south will be minimal.
- **Eastern Riverside County (Area 31):** Minor smoke impacts are expected to persist in this region and throughout Joshua Tree National Park.

Overall, meteorological conditions may bring smoke and ash into portions of the San Gorgonio Pass, the eastern San Bernardino Mountains, the Coachella Valley, and Eastern Riverside County. **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** or higher AQI levels are possible in areas of direct smoke impacts. However, smoke impacts are anticipated to decrease significantly during the next few days.

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

- **Riverside County:** San Gorgonio Pass (Area 29), Coachella Valley (Area 30), East Riverside County (Area 31)
- **San Bernardino County:** East San Bernardino Mountains (Area 38)



**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 <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 South Coast AQMD Daily Rule 403.1 High Wind Forecasts for the Coachella Valley call (909) 396-2399 or 1-800-CUT-SMOG
- 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](#).

###