



South Coast  
AQMD

# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **South Coast AQMD Continues Smoke Advisory Due to Bobcat Fire and El Dorado Fire**

***Valid: Wednesday, September 16, through Thursday, September 17, 2020***

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

Two major local wildfires as well as wildfires in Northern and Central California are affecting air quality in the region. A wildfire named the Bobcat Fire is burning north of Azusa and Monrovia in the Angeles National Forest. As of 6:50 a.m. on Wednesday, the burn area was approximately 44,393 acres with 3% containment. Current information on the Bobcat Fire can be found on the Incident Information System (InciWeb) at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7152>.

A wildfire named the El Dorado Fire is burning in the San Bernardino Mountains near Yucaipa in San Bernardino County. As of 6:51 a.m. on Wednesday, the burn area was reported at 18,092 acres with 60% containment. Current information on the El Dorado Fire can be found on the Incident Information System at: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7148/>.

In addition, smoke from fires in Central California, Northern California, Oregon, and Washington are also being transported south and may impact air quality in the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley.

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

Both the Bobcat Fire and the El Dorado fires are producing substantial amounts of smoke on Wednesday morning. On Wednesday morning, smoke from the El Dorado fire and the northern extent of the Bobcat Fire is being transported towards the northwest based on satellite imagery. However, large amounts of smoke are still present throughout the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley. Smoke from fires in Northern and Central California is still present in upper levels of the atmosphere this morning, which is reducing ventilation of polluted air out of the South Coast Air Basin.

Smoke impacts were widespread on Tuesday with all South Coast AQMD continuous PM2.5 monitors recording 24-hour average concentrations exceeding federal air quality standards, except for monitors in Lake Elsinore, Temecula, Banning, Crestline, Indio, and Santa Clarita. Monitors throughout the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction measured Air Quality Index (AQI) levels in the **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** to **Unhealthy** Categories throughout the day yesterday. **Very Unhealthy** values were recorded at times near the Bobcat and El Dorado fires with South Coast AQMD's temporary monitors and low-cost sensors. The fire is also producing ash particles that are small enough to be detected by South Coast AQMD's PM10 monitors in addition to the smoke detected by the PM2.5 monitors. Visit <https://www.aqmd.gov/aqdata> to view current air quality conditions.

**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>.

### **Forecasted Smoke and Ash Impacts**

Most of the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction will experience smoke impacts with the highest AQI values occurring in direct proximity to the Bobcat and El Dorado Fires. Smoke transported from fires in Central and Northern California may also contribute to widespread elevated particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) concentrations. Smoke and ash impacts will be highly variable in both timing and location through Thursday.

- **Wednesday afternoon through Wednesday evening:** Smoke from the Bobcat and El Dorado Fires along with fires from outside the region will impact areas in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties throughout this period. As the day progresses, moderate improvement is expected throughout the region. However, thick smoke will persist in the San Gabriel Mountains and the San Bernardino Mountains, especially in areas north and east of the local fires.
- **Overnight Wednesday through Thursday morning:** Winds will be light and variable overnight. Thick smoke will return to much of San Bernardino County, the San Jacinto-Hemet Valley, and the Coachella Valley in the early morning hours on Thursday. The 210 corridor of Los Angeles County and the San Gabriel Mountains will also see high particulate matter levels. Other areas of the South Coast Air Basin will see smoke impact throughout this period to a lesser extent.
- **Thursday afternoon:** Onshore winds that move from the coast towards inland areas will start mid-day and will likely move smoke to the northeast and east into the mountains of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties and out of the South Coast Air Basin leading to some clearing. Modest smoke impacts may persist throughout the rest of the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley due to smoke from the Northern and Central California fires.
- **Extended Outlook:** Significant smoke impacts in the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley will likely continue until fire activity decreases for the Bobcat Fire, El Dorado Fire, and other fires in California. South Coast Air Quality Management District will continue to provide daily smoke advisory update until smoke impacts subside.

In order to avoid increasing PM2.5 levels even further, South Coast AQMD recommends that the public avoid burning wood during periods of poor air quality. Per South Coast AQMD Rule 444, burning wood on the beach is prohibited on Wednesday September 16th and Thursday September 17th due to forecasted AQI values above 100 in coastal areas.

Areas of direct impacts and poor air quality may include all portions of the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction. **Very Unhealthy** or higher AQI levels due to PM2.5 concentrations are possible in areas of direct smoke impacts. Impacts will be highly variable throughout the day, impacting different parts of the region at different times.



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

- **Los Angeles County:** Central Los Angeles (Area 1), Northwest Coastal LA County (Area 2), Southwest Coastal LA County (Area 3), South Coastal LA (Area 4), Southeast LA County (Area 5), West San Fernando Valley (Area 6), East San Fernando Valley (Area 7), West San Gabriel Valley (Area 8), East San Gabriel Valley (Area 9), Pomona-Walnut Valley (Area 10), South San Gabriel Valley (Area 11), South Central Los Angeles County (Area 12), Santa Clarita Valley (Area 13), San Gabriel Mountains (Area 15)
- **Orange County:** Northern Orange County (Area 16), Central Orange County (Area 17), North Coastal Orange County (Area 18), Saddleback Valley (Area 19), Central Coastal Orange County (Area 20), Capistrano Valley (Area 21)
- **Riverside County:** Corona-Norco (Area 22), Metropolitan Riverside County (Area 23), Perris Valley (Area 24), Lake Elsinore (Area 25), Temecula Valley (Area 26), Anza Valley (Area 27), Hemet-San Jacinto Valley (Area 28), San Gorgonio Pass (Area 29), Coachella Valley (Area 30), East Riverside County (Area 31)

- **San Bernardino County:** Northwest San Bernardino Valley (Area 32), Southwest San Bernardino Valley (Area 33), Central San Bernardino Valley (Area 34), East San Bernardino Valley (Area 35), West San Bernardino Mountains (Area 36), Central San Bernardino Mountains (Area 37), East San Bernardino Mountains (Area 38)
- 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](#).

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