



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 14, 2020

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## **South Coast AQMD Issues Ozone Advisory**

*Some areas experienced highest levels of Ozone in more than a decade due to heat and wildfires*

***Valid: Friday, August 14, through Monday (afternoon), August 17, 2020***

The heat wave, along with stagnant weather and ongoing wildfires will result in poor air quality for many parts of region this weekend. High temperatures are expected to persist over the next several days throughout the South Coast Air Basin and the Coachella Valley, increasing the likelihood of elevated ground-level ozone (smog) levels in many areas. Wildfires, which produce chemicals that help to form ozone, may also contribute to increased ozone levels.

South Coast AQMD monitors detected one-hour ozone levels to be more than 170 parts per billion (ppb) in the Eastern San Bernardino Valley—the highest in over a decade. One-hour average ozone concentrations have not exceeded 163 ppb anywhere in the South Coast Air Basin since 2009.

On Friday afternoon, Air Quality Index (AQI) levels are in the **Very Unhealthy** category throughout a large portion of the South Coast Air Basin. Ozone concentrations are expected to remain elevated until sunset.

The National Weather Service (NWS) is predicting a heat wave over southern California that will last through at least Monday. The NWS has issued excessive heat warnings for most of the South Coast Air Basin and the Coachella Valley, which is in effect until 9 pm on Monday. For information regarding the NWS warnings and the most current weather information, visit the NWS Los Angeles (<https://www.weather.gov/lox/>) and San Diego (<https://www.weather.gov/sgx/>) websites. Elevated temperatures, which enhance ozone formation rates, coupled with predicted atmospheric inversions that trap pollution near the surface, and increased emissions of chemicals that form ozone from nearby wildfires are expected to cause unusually high and persistent levels of ozone pollution.

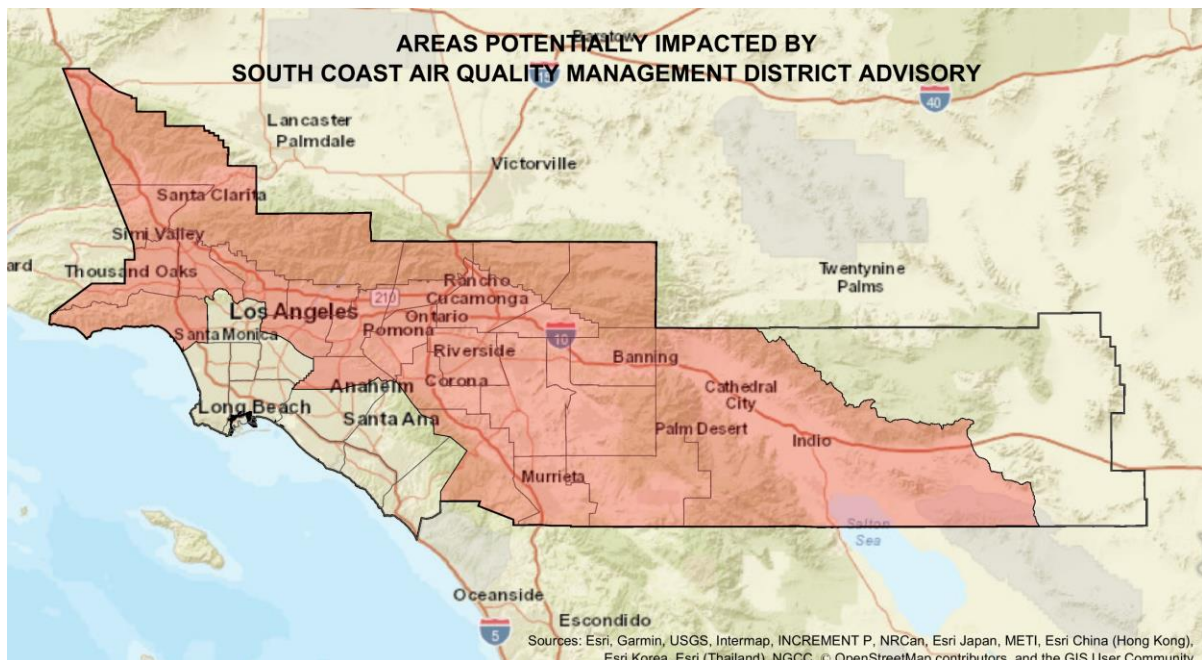
On Saturday, Sunday, and Monday afternoons, AQI levels may reach the **Unhealthy to Very Unhealthy** AQI categories at times in the Santa Clarita Valley, the San Fernando Valley, the San Gabriel Mountains, the San Gabriel Valley, the Inland Empire, the San Bernardino Mountains, and the Coachella Valley.

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 to air pollution 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.

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

- **Los Angeles County:** Northwest Coastal LA County (Area 2), 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), Santa Clarita Valley (Area 13), San Gabriel Mountains (Area 15)
- **Orange County:** Northern Orange County (Area 16)
- **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)
- **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>.

#### **What To Do When Air Pollution Reaches Unhealthy 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. 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.

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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