



South Coast  
AQMD

# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **South Coast AQMD Continues Smoke Advisory Due to Silverado and Blue Ridge Fires**

***Valid: Wednesday, October 28, through Thursday, October 29, 2020***

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

Two major local wildfires are affecting air quality in the region. A wildfire named the Silverado Fire is burning in the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains in and around Irvine and Lake Forest in Orange County. As of 7:35 a.m. on Wednesday, the burn area was reported at 13,354 acres with 25% containment. Current information on the Silverado Fire can be found on CAL FIRE's website at < <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/10/26/silverado-fire/>>.

A wildfire named the Blue Ridge Fire is also burning in Yorba Linda and Chino Hills State Park in Orange County. As of 7:40 AM on Wednesday, the burn area was reported at 14,334 acres with 16% containment. Current information on the Blue Ridge Fire can be found on CAL FIRE's website at < <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/10/26/blue-ridge-fire/>>.

Information for both the Silverado and the Blue Ridge Fire can also be found on the Orange County Fire Authority's twitter page at: [https://twitter.com/OCFA\\_PIO](https://twitter.com/OCFA_PIO).

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

The Silverado and Blue Ridge Fires are producing smoke and haze on Wednesday morning based on satellite imagery, webcam imagery, and social media posts. Smoke from both fires on Wednesday morning was moving towards the south and southwest into Orange County and southern Los Angeles County with localized smoke present in proximity to the fires. Since Tuesday afternoon, monitors and low-cost sensors throughout the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction have measured Air Quality Index (AQI) levels in the **Moderate to Unhealthy** categories. **Hazardous** values were recorded at times near the Silverado Fire on Wednesday morning with South Coast AQMD's temporary monitor. Ashfall was also

reported in areas downwind of the fires. 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

Areas in direct proximity to the Silverado and Blue Ridge Fires will experience the highest AQI levels due to smoke impacts. Smoke and ash impacts will be highly variable in both timing and location through Thursday.

#### Orange County

- **Wednesday afternoon:** Winds will be from the west on Wednesday afternoon, moving smoke from the Silverado Fire east into portions of Saddleback Valley and the Santa Ana Mountains and smoke from the Blue Ridge Fire east into portions of Northern Orange County.
- **Wednesday evening through Thursday morning:** Winds will be from the east, northeast, and southeast Wednesday evening through Thursday morning. Areas west, southwest, and northwest of the Silverado Fire and Blue Ridge Fire, as well as areas in direct proximity to the fires, will likely see the highest particulate matter levels overnight as smoke is likely to remain closer to the ground.
- **Thursday afternoon:** Winds are predicted to be from the southwest and west on Thursday afternoon, which will push smoke towards the northeast and east towards Saddleback Valley.

#### Los Angeles County

- **Wednesday afternoon:** Winds will be from the southwest and west on Wednesday afternoon, moving smoke from the Blue Ridge and Silverado Fires out of Los Angeles County.
- **Wednesday evening through Thursday morning:** Winds will be from the east, northeast, and southeast Wednesday evening through Thursday morning, with periods of variable wind direction. This will push smoke into Southern Los Angeles County, the San Gabriel Valley, and Central Los Angeles.
- **Thursday afternoon:** Winds are predicted to be from the southwest and west on Thursday afternoon, which will push smoke towards the northeast into the northern San Gabriel Valley and east out of Los Angeles County.

#### Riverside County

- **Wednesday afternoon:** Winds will be from the west and northwest on Wednesday afternoon, moving smoke from the fires to the east and southeast into Corona-Norco, Riverside, and Lake Elsinore.
- **Wednesday evening through Thursday morning:** Winds will be from the east and southeast Wednesday evening through Thursday morning, which will move smoke to the west and northeast.

- **Thursday afternoon:** Winds are predicted to be from the west and northwest on Thursday afternoon, which will push smoke from the fires towards the east and southeast towards Corona-Norco, Riverside, and Lake Elsinore.

### San Bernardino County

- **Wednesday afternoon:** Winds will be from the west and southwest on Wednesday afternoon, moving smoke from the Blue Ridge Fire to the east and northeast into Southwest San Bernardino Valley.
- **Wednesday evening through Thursday morning:** Winds will be from the north and northeast Wednesday evening through Thursday morning, which will move smoke to the south and southwest and out of San Bernardino County.
- **Thursday afternoon:** Winds are predicted to be from the west and southwest on Thursday afternoon, which will push smoke towards the east and northeast towards Southwest San Bernardino Valley.

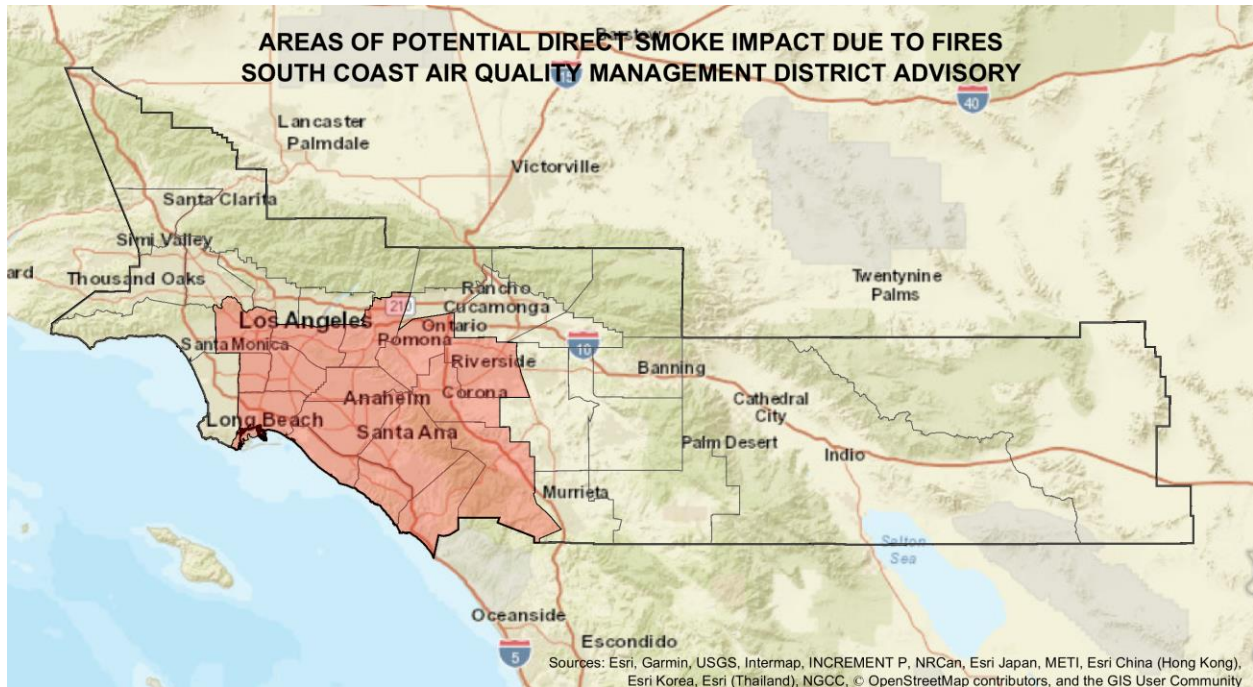
**Extended Outlook for All Fires:** Smoke impacts in the South Coast Air Basin will likely continue until fire activity decreases for the Blue Ridge and Silverado Fires. The South Coast Air Quality Management District will continue to provide daily smoke advisory updates until air quality impacts from smoke 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 October 28, 2020 and Thursday October 29, 2020 due to forecasted AQI values above 100 in coastal areas, except in area 2 (Northwest Coastal Los Angeles County).

Overall, meteorological conditions will bring smoke and ash into portions of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. **Unhealthy** or higher AQI levels due to PM2.5 concentrations are possible in areas of direct smoke impacts.

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

- **Los Angeles County:** Central Los Angeles (Area 1), South Coastal LA (Area 4), Southeast LA County (Area 5), Pomona-Walnut Valley (Area 10), South San Gabriel Valley (Area 11), South Central Los Angeles County (Area 12)
- **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), Lake Elsinore (Area 25)
- **San Bernardino County:** Southwest San Bernardino Valley (Area 33)



- 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 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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