



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: Thursday, October 29, through Friday, October 30, 2020

This advisory is in effect through Friday 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 7:40 a.m. on Thursday, the burn area was reported at 13,390 acres with 40% 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 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, the burn area was reported at 14,334 acres with 30% 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/>.

Past and Current Smoke and Ash Impacts

The Silverado and Blue Ridge Fires are producing smoke and haze on Thursday morning based on webcam imagery and social media posts. Smoke from both fires on Thursday morning was present in portions of Orange County and western portions of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties with localized smoke present in proximity to the fires. Since Wednesday at 12:00 p.m., monitors and low-cost sensors throughout the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction have measured Air Quality Index (AQI) levels in the **Good** to **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** categories, except for South Coast AQMD's temporary monitor in Irvine which had measured AQI levels in the **Unhealthy** category yesterday. 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 Friday.

- **Thursday afternoon:** Winds near the Silverado and Blue Ridge Fires will be from the west and southwest on Thursday afternoon, moving smoke to the east and northeast into portions of the Santa Ana Mountains, Northern Orange County, Corona-Norco, Riverside, and Southwest San Bernardino Valley.
- **Thursday evening through Friday morning:** Winds will be from the east and southeast Thursday evening through Friday morning, with periods of variable wind direction. Areas west 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.
- **Friday afternoon:** Winds are predicted to be from the southwest and west on Friday afternoon, which will push smoke towards the northeast and east towards Northern Orange County, Corona-Norco, Riverside, and Southwest San Bernardino Valley.

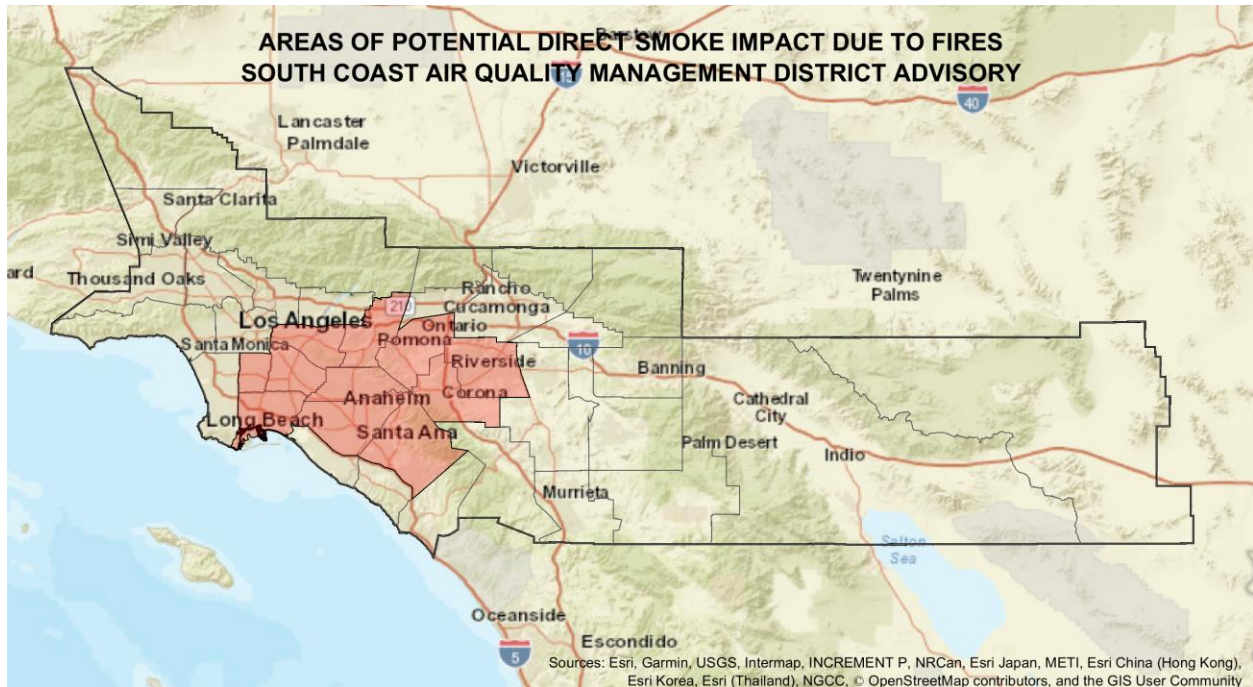
Extended Outlook for All Fires: Smoke impacts in the South Coast Air Basin will likely continue until fire activity decreases for the Blue Ridge and Silverado Fires. The South Coast Air Quality Management District will continue to provide daily smoke advisory updates until air quality impacts from smoke 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 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 for Sensitive Groups** 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:** 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), Saddleback Valley (Area 19)
- **Riverside County:** Corona-Norco (Area 22), Metropolitan Riverside County (Area 23)
- **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
- To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories and forecasts by email, go to 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
- 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, download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/aqmd), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/aqmd) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/aqmd).

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