



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

*Burning wood on the beach prohibited on Wednesday due to forecasted AQI values
in coastal areas*

Valid: Tuesday, September 15, through Wednesday, September 16, 2020

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 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, the burn area was approximately 41,231 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 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, the burn area was reported at 17,598 acres with 54% 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 Northern California, Central 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 Tuesday morning. On Tuesday 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, smoke from the southern extent of the El Dorado fire being transported predominantly west and south into Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Falling ash has been reported downwind of the Bobcat Fire throughout the South Coast Air Basin. 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 Monday 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, and Indio. 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 Tuesday.

- **Tuesday afternoon through Tuesday evening:** Smoke from the Bobcat and El Dorado Fires along with fires from outside the region to a lesser extent will impact areas in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties throughout this period. As the day progresses, some clearing is expected throughout the region. However, smoke will persist in the San Gabriel Mountains and the San Bernardino Mountains. Smoke from the El Dorado fire will begin to degrade air quality in the Coachella Valley in the evening hours.
- **Overnight Tuesday through Wednesday morning:** Winds will be light and variable overnight. Areas south of the Bobcat fire along the I-10 corridor from Glendale to Rancho Cucamonga along with the San Fernando Valley and the Santa Monica Mountains will likely see the highest particulate matter levels as smoke is likely to remain closer to the ground overnight. Smoke impacts from the El Dorado Fire will degrade air quality in western Riverside and San Bernardino Counties starting in the early morning hours. Other areas of the South Coast Air Basin could also see worsening smoke impacts throughout this period to a lesser extent.
- **Wednesday 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.

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 15th due to forecasted AQI values above 100 in coastal areas.

Areas of direct impacts and poor air quality may include all parts of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino Counties within in the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction, as well as metropolitan Riverside County and Coachella Valley. **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
- 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 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, download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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