



South Coast  
AQMD

# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **South Coast AQMD Continues Smoke Advisory Due to Bobcat, El Dorado and Snow Fires**

***Valid: Sunday, September 20, 2020 through Monday, September 21, 2020***

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

Three major local wildfires are affecting air quality in the region. A wildfire named the Bobcat Fire is burning north of Azusa, Duarte, Monrovia, and Arcadia in the Angeles National Forest. As of 8:00 AM on Sunday, the burn area was reported at 99,428 acres with 15% 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 12:00 PM on Sunday, the burn area was reported at 22,489 acres with 59% containment. Current information on the El Dorado Fire can be found on InciWeb at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7148/>.

A wildfire named the Snow Fire is burning in the San Jacinto Wilderness near Cabazon in Riverside County. As of 6:00 AM on Saturday, the burn area was approximately 6,013 acres with 20% containment. Current information on the Snow Fire can be found on the Riverside County Fire Department's Incident Information website <http://www.rvcfire.org/Pages/default.aspx> as well as on InciWeb at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7207/>.

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

The Bobcat, El Dorado, and Snow Fires are producing substantial amounts of smoke on Sunday morning based on satellite and webcam imagery. Smoke from the Bobcat Fire is being transported towards the north and northwest. Smoke from the Eldorado Fire is being transported towards the north and northeast. Smoke from the Snow Fire is being transported to the north into the northern portions of

Coachella Valley.

All South Coast AQMD continuous PM2.5 monitors recording 24-hour average concentrations were below federal air quality standards on Saturday. Since Saturday afternoon, monitors and low-cost sensors throughout the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction measured Air Quality Index (AQI) levels in the **Good** to **Moderate** categories. **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** and **Unhealthy** values were recorded at times in the Big Bear Lake near the El Dorado Fire with low-cost sensors on Saturday afternoon. 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 Bobcat, El Dorado, and Snow 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 Sunday.

### **Los Angeles County**

- **Sunday afternoon through Sunday evening:** Winds will be from the south and southeast and push smoke from the Bobcat Fire to the north and northwest into the San Gabriel Mountains and out of the South Coast Air Basin.
- **Overnight Sunday through Monday morning:** Areas south and southwest of the Bobcat Fire along the I-210 corridor in Glendora, Arcadia, Pasadena, and Burbank will likely see the highest particulate matter levels as smoke is likely to remain closer to the ground overnight from the southern extents of the fire.
- **Monday afternoon:** Southerly winds are predicted to move smoke from the Bobcat Fire to the north into the mountains of Los Angeles and out of the South Coast Air Basin.

### **San Bernardino County**

- **Sunday afternoon:** Winds will be from the south and southwest and push smoke from the El Dorado Fire to the north and northeast into the San Bernardino Mountains. Heavy smoke is possible in the Big Bear area.
- **Sunday evening through Monday morning:** Winds will be from the west and push smoke from the El Dorado Fire to the east into the eastern part of the San Bernardino Mountains. Heavy smoke is possible in cities such as Desert Hot Springs and Palm Springs. The East San Bernardino Valley could see higher PM2.5 levels from the El Dorado Fire as smoke is likely to remain closer to the ground overnight. The West San Bernardino Mountains and western San Bernardino Valley could also see an increase in PM2.5 levels overnight due to smoke from the Bobcat Fire.

- **Monday afternoon:** Southerly winds are predicted to move smoke from the El Dorado Fire to the north into the San Bernardino Mountains and out of the South Coast Air Basin. Big Bear and Running Springs will likely see smoke impacts.

### Riverside County

- **Sunday afternoon:** Winds will be from the south and southwest and push smoke from the Snow Fire to the north and northeast into the Northern Coachella Valley and Eastern Riverside County. Higher PM2.5 levels are possible in Northern Palm Springs.
- **Sunday evening through Monday morning:** Winds will come from the west and northwest. Areas east and southeast of the Snow Fire along the I-10 corridor from Cabazon to Cathedral City will likely see the highest particulate matter levels as smoke is likely to remain closer to the ground overnight.
- **Monday afternoon:** Winds are predicted to shift and come from the southwest at times. This will move smoke from the Snow Fire to the northeast into the Coachella Valley and Eastern Riverside County.

**Extended Outlook for All Fires:** 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 Snow Fire. 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.

Areas of direct impacts and poor air quality may include portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties in the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction. **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:** West San Gabriel Valley (Area 8), East San Gabriel Valley (Area 9), Pomona-Walnut Valley (Area 10), San Gabriel Mountains (Area 15)
- **Riverside County:** San Gorgonio Pass (Area 29), Coachella Valley (Area 30), East Riverside County (Area 31)
- **San Bernardino County:** Northwest San Bernardino Valley (Area 32), 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](https://www.facebook.com/aqmd), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/aqmd) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/aqmd).

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