



South Coast
AQMD

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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South Coast AQMD Continues Special Air Advisory Due to Elevated Ozone and PM2.5 Levels

Valid: Saturday, August 22, 2020 through Sunday, August 23, 2020

DIAMOND BAR--Poor air quality is expected in portions of the South Coast Air Basin for Saturday and Sunday. Air quality will be impacted by elevated fine particulate matter (PM2.5) levels due to smoke from wildfires in both Southern and Northern California. Wildfires, which produce chemicals that help to form ozone, may also contribute to increased ozone levels.

Wildfires burning in Southern and Northern California are producing heavy smoke, increasing the likelihood of elevated PM2.5 levels in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. Satellite imagery and smoke models indicate that smoke from several Northern California wildfires as well as localized smoke from fires in the South Coast Air Basin were present in the South Coast Air Basin on Saturday. Since Friday afternoon, PM2.5 levels have reached the **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** AQI category while ozone levels have reached the **Unhealthy** AQI category in the Santa Clarita Valley and San Fernando Valley, and in portions of the San Gabriel Valley and the San Bernardino Mountains.

Smoke models predict that smoke from the Northern California wildfires could move into the South Coast Air Basin again Saturday afternoon through Sunday morning. Air quality models indicate that air quality impacts in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties from the northern California wildfires will last through Sunday afternoon. AQI levels due to PM2.5 may reach **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** or higher AQI categories on Sunday morning. AQI levels due to ozone may reach the **Unhealthy** or higher AQI categories on Sunday afternoon. Winds from the west and southwest in the afternoon will help to disperse smoke on Sunday afternoon. For more information about the smoke impacts from local fires in the South Coast Air Basin, please see the South Coast AQMD's smoke advisories at www.aqmd.gov/advisory.

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.

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.

Fine particulate matter or PM2.5 can get deep into the lungs and cause heart problems and breathing problems (including asthma attacks), increases in emergency room visits and hospitalizations. Older adults, young children, pregnant women, and people with heart diseases or lung diseases (such as asthma) may be especially sensitive to health risks from wildfire smoke.

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>

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

- **Los Angeles County:** 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)
- **San Bernardino County:** Northwest San Bernardino Valley (Area 32), 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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