



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 15, 2021

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## South Coast AQMD Issues Smoke Advisory Due to Bonita Fire

**Valid Friday January 15, 2021 through Saturday January 16, 2021**

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

A wildfire named the Bonita Fire is burning near Idyllwild and Mountain Center in Riverside County. As of 7:00 AM on Friday, the burn area was reported at 600 acres with 5% containment. Current information on the Bonita Fire can be found on InciWeb at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7312/>.

### Past and Current Smoke and Ash Impacts

The Bonita Fire is producing smoke on Friday morning based on satellite and webcam imagery. Smoke on Friday morning was moving to the south towards the southern portions of the San Bernardino National Forest and Anza. Since the start of the Bonita Fire at 1:16 AM on Friday morning, **Good** Air Quality Index (AQI) levels were recorded throughout Riverside County based on measurements at regulatory air quality monitors and low-cost sensors. 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

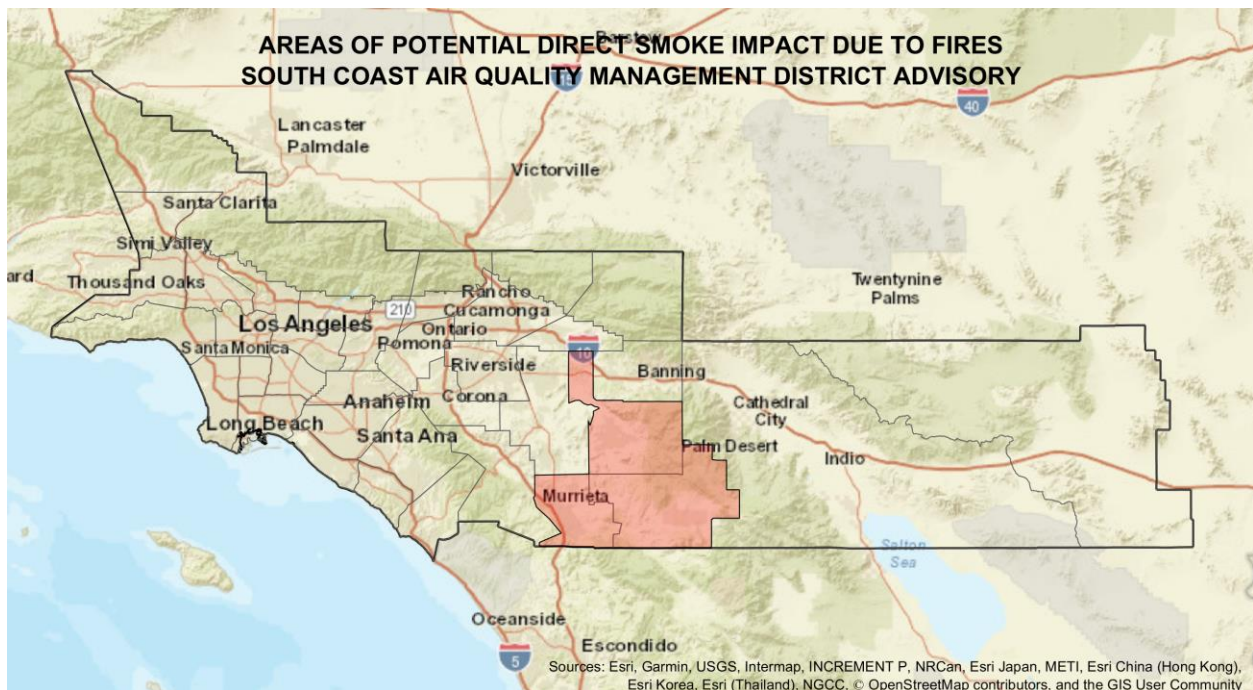
Areas downwind of the Bonita Fire will experience the highest AQI levels due to smoke impacts. Smoke and ash impacts will be highly variable in both timing and location through Saturday.

- **Friday afternoon:** Winds near the Bonita Fire will be from the northeast on Friday, moving smoke to the southwest into southern portions of the Inland Empire such as Hemet, Aguanga, Anza, and Temecula.
- **Friday evening through Saturday morning:** Winds will become light and variable through Saturday morning near the Bonita Fire. Areas south and southeast of the Bonita Fire, as well as areas in direct proximity to the fire, will likely see the highest particulate matter levels overnight as smoke is likely to remain closer to the ground. Smoke impacts will be heavily dependent on the progress of fire containment efforts Friday afternoon and evening.
- **Saturday afternoon:** Winds are predicted to be from the northeast on Saturday, which will push smoke towards the southwest towards southern portions of the Inland Empire such as Hemet, Aguanga, Anza, and Temecula.

Overall, meteorological conditions will bring smoke and ash into portions of Riverside County with localized impacts near the Bonita Fire. **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:

- **Riverside County:** Temecula Valley (Area 26), Anza Valley (Area 27), Hemet-San Jacinto Valley (Area 28)



- 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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