



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 29, 2021

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## South Coast AQMD Continues Smoke Advisory Due to Chaparral Fire

**Valid: Sunday, August 29 through Monday, August 30, 2021**

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

A wildfire named Chaparral Fire is burning in the Cleveland National Forest southwest of Murrieta in San Diego County. As of 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, the burn area was reported at 1425 acres with 10% containment. Current information on the Chaparral Fire can be found on CAL FIRE at <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2021/8/28/chaparral-fire/>.

### Past and Current Smoke and Ash Impacts

The Chaparral Fire is actively producing smoke on Sunday morning based on satellite imagery, webcam imagery, and social media posts. Winds are transporting the smoke plume towards the north and west into the Santa Ana Mountains. At 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, South Coast AQMD's regulatory PM2.5 monitors in Lake Elsinore and Mission Viejo recorded **Moderate** Air Quality Index (AQI) levels, and the monitor at Temecula recorded **Good** AQI levels. Low-cost PM2.5 sensors in Lake Elsinore, Lake Mathews, Corona, and Norco recorded **Good** to **Moderate** Air Quality Index (AQI) levels. 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 Chaparral 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 Monday.

- **Sunday afternoon:** Winds from the south and west will push smoke towards the north and east into the Santa Ana Mountains and towards Lake Elsinore, Wildomar, Murrieta, Temecula, Perris, and Hemet. PM2.5 levels in these areas may be elevated.

- **Sunday evening through Monday morning:** Winds from the south and west will push smoke towards the north and east. PM2.5 levels in Lake Elsinore, Wildomar, Murrieta, Temecula, Perris, Hemet, Banning, Aguanga, and the Cahuilla reservation may be elevated. Smoke may be transported to the Coachella Valley and PM2.5 levels in Palm Springs and Indio may be elevated. Areas in direct proximity to the Chaparral Fire will likely see the highest particulate matter levels overnight as smoke is likely to remain closer to the ground.
- **Monday afternoon:** If the fire continues to produce smoke, southwest winds near the Chaparral Fire will push smoke to the north towards Saddleback Mountains and the Lake Elsinore area in Riverside County. PM2.5 levels in Lake Elsinore, Wildomar, Murrieta, Temecula, Perris, Hemet, Banning, Aguanga, and the Cahuilla reservation may be elevated. Smoke may be transported to the Coachella Valley and PM2.5 levels in Palm Springs and Indio may be elevated.

Overall, meteorological conditions will bring smoke and ash into portions of Riverside and Orange Counties with more significant impacts near the Chaparral 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:

- **Orange County:** Saddleback Valley (Area 19), Capistrano Valley (Area 21)
- **Riverside County:** Perris Valley (Area 24), Lake Elsinore (Area 25), Temecula Valley (Area 26), Anza Valley (Area 27), Hemet-San Jacinto Valley (Area 28), San Geronio Pass (Area 29), Coachella Valley (Area 30)



- 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 major portions of Los Angeles, Orange, 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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