



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 28, 2021

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

**Valid: Saturday, August 28 through Sunday, August 29, 2021**

*This advisory is in effect through Sunday 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 5:00 PM on Saturday, the burn area was reported at 450 acres with 0% 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 Saturday afternoon based on satellite imagery, webcam imagery, and social media posts. Winds are transporting the smoke plume towards the north and into Saddleback Mountains and the Lake Elsinore area in Riverside County. At 4:00 pm on Saturday, South Coast AQMD's regulatory PM2.5 monitors in Lake Elsinore and Temecula recorded **Good** Air Quality Index (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 Sunday.

- **Saturday afternoon:** Winds from the south will push smoke towards the north and into Saddleback Mountains and the Lake Elsinore area in Riverside County. PM2.5 levels in Lake Elsinore, Wildomar, and Murrieta may increase.

- **Saturday evening through Sunday morning:** Winds from the northwest and north will carry the smoke to the southeast and south. 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. PM2.5 levels may be elevated in areas near Murrieta and Temecula.
- **Sunday 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, and Murrieta may increase.

Overall, meteorological conditions will bring smoke and ash into portions of Riverside County 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:

- **Riverside County:** Perris Valley (Area 24), Lake Elsinore (Area 25), Temecula Valley (Area 26)



- 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](#).