



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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South Coast AQMD Issues Particulate Advisory Due to New Year's Eve Fireworks

Valid Friday December 31, 2021 through Saturday January 01, 2022

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

Poor air quality is possible in areas of the South Coast Air Basin on December 31st through January 1st. Due to fireworks related to New Year celebrations, the Air Quality Index (AQI) may reach the Unhealthy AQI category or higher from Friday evening through Saturday morning. Fireworks are known to emit high levels of particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) as well as metal air pollutants, all of which can contribute to negative health effects.

The use of personal "backyard" fireworks also contributes to this air pollution and can further increase how much air pollution a person is breathing. Fireworks may lead to regional air quality in the Unhealthy category, however, personal exposure to "backyard" fireworks may create local fine particulate matter concentrations far in excess of regional values in the direct proximity to users.

Fine particulate matter levels on days with excessive firework activity are typically among the worst (highest) days of the year in the South Coast Air Basin. The smoke and combustion products from fireworks add to the fine particles already present in the Basin that are primarily caused by motor vehicles, residential wood combustion, fugitive dust and industrial emissions.

Breathing of fine particulate matter can lead to a wide variety of cardiovascular and respiratory health effects such as heart attacks, asthma aggravation, decreased lung function, coughing, or difficulty breathing and may lead to premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

Check air quality levels and take appropriate action as needed. When air quality index (AQI) levels are Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (orange), people with heart or lung disease, pregnant women, children, and older adults should limit prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion. When air quality reaches Unhealthy (red) AQI levels, everyone may experience adverse health effects and sensitive groups should avoid

prolonged time outdoors. At Very Unhealthy (purple) AQI levels, sensitive groups should avoid all outdoor physical activity and everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.

To help keep indoor air clean during periods of poor air quality, close all windows and doors and run your air conditioner and/or an air purifier. If possible, do not use whole house fans or swamp coolers that bring in outside air. Avoid burning wood in your fireplace or firepit and minimize sources of indoor air pollution such as candles, incense, pan-frying, and grilling. Limit the use of gasoline powered lawn and garden equipment.

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

- **Los Angeles County:** Central Los Angeles (Area 1), Northwest Coastal LA County (Area 2), Southwest Coastal LA County (Area 3), South Coastal LA (Area 4), Southeast LA County (Area 5), 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), South Central Los Angeles County (Area 12), Santa Clarita Valley (Area 13), San Gabriel Mountains (Area 15)
- **Orange County:** Northern Orange County (Area 16), Central Orange County (Area 17), North Coastal Orange County (Area 18), Saddleback Valley (Area 19), Central Coastal Orange County (Area 20), Capistrano Valley (Area 21)
- **Riverside County:** Corona-Norco (Area 22), Metropolitan Riverside County (Area 23), Perris Valley (Area 24), Lake Elsinore (Area 25), Temecula Valley (Area 26), Anza Valley (Area 27), Hemet-San Jacinto Valley (Area 28), San Gorgonio Pass (Area 29)
- **San Bernardino County:** Northwest San Bernardino Valley (Area 32), Southwest San Bernardino Valley (Area 33), 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:

<http://www.aqmd.gov/advisory>

To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories and forecasts by email, go to <http://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: <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>

What To Do When Air Pollution Reaches Unhealthy Levels:

Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups: Air Quality Index (AQI) is 101 - 150. Although the general public is not likely to be affected at this AQI range, people with heart or lung disease, older adults and children are at a greater risk from exposure to air pollution. People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.

Unhealthy: AQI is 151 - 200. Everyone may begin to experience some adverse health effects, and members of the sensitive groups may experience more serious effects. People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.

Very Unhealthy: AQI is 201 - 300. Everyone may experience more serious health effects. People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange County, Riverside and San Bernardino 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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