

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 14, 2021

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South Coast AQMD Issues Windblown Dust Advisory for the Eastern Portion of Riverside County and the Coachella Valley

Valid: Tuesday, December 14, 2021

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

A PM10 Dust Advisory is in effect from noon through midnight Tuesday due to high winds and dry conditions in eastern Riverside County. As of Tuesday morning, the National Weather Service (NWS) has posted Blowing Dust Advisories for this area due to a strong Pacific storm. Despite widespread rainfall further west, far eastern Riverside County is only expected to receive light and spotty rain. These meteorological conditions can lift dust and soil and lead to poor air quality. For information regarding the NWS warnings, please visit the NWS Phoenix (https://www.weather.gov/psr/) website.

High winds may lead to air quality conditions that are Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or worse at times in eastern Riverside County and the eastern Coachella Valley due to elevated particulate matter (PM10) levels. Air quality can vary hour by hour and by location depending on wind conditions and actual rainfall, if any.

In areas directly impacted by high levels of windblown dust, limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed and avoiding vigorous physical activity. Run your air conditioner or an air purifier. If temperatures allow, avoid using whole house fans or swamp coolers that bring in outside air.

Exposure to high particle pollution levels can cause serious health problems, including asthma attacks, heart and lung disease symptoms, and increased risk of respiratory infections. People with heart or lung diseases should follow their doctor's advice for dealing with episodes of unhealthy air quality. Children, older adults, and people with respiratory or heart disease should avoid prolonged exposure and strenuous activities when particle pollution levels are high.

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



Riverside County: Coachella Valley (Area 30), East Riverside County (Area 31)

In areas directly impacted by windblown dust: Limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed and avoiding vigorous physical activity.

- 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 <u>www.AirAlerts.org</u>
- 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 a map of South Coast AQMD Forecast Areas, see http://www.aqmd.gov/ForecastAreas.

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.