

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 7, 2022 MEDIA CONTACT: Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431 Kim White, (909) 396-3456, Cell: (909) 323-9479 press@aqmd.gov

South Coast AQMD Issues Ozone Advisory Due to Heat Wave

Valid Wednesday June 08, 2022 through Sunday June 12, 2022

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

The National Weather Service has issued Excessive Heat Watches and Heat Advisories for parts of the South Coast Air Basin and the Coachella Valley, increasing the likelihood of poor air quality in many areas. This heat wave is expected to last through at least Sunday.

Levels of ground-level ozone (smog) – the predominant summertime pollutant – are likely to reach **Unhealthy** Air Quality Index (AQI) levels in parts of the South Coast Air Basin and the Coachella Valley. AQI is likely to reach the **Very Unhealthy** level in Crestline, Big Bear, Redlands, San Bernardino, and nearby areas. Areas near the coast may reach **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** AQI levels.

Unusually poor air quality is expected due to a strong high pressure ridge located over the Desert Southwest. The National Weather Service forecasts that temperatures will be highest Thursday through Sunday, with temperatures 10-15 degrees F above average. Elevated temperatures, which enhance ozone formation rates and increase emissions of chemicals leading to ozone formation, coupled with predicted light winds may cause unusually high and persistent levels of ozone pollution.

Ozone air pollution can cause respiratory health problems, including trouble breathing, asthma attacks, and lung damage. Research also indicates that ozone exposure can increase the risk of premature death. Children, older adults, and people with asthma or COPD may be more sensitive to the health effects of ozone.

What To Do When Air Pollution Reaches Unhealthful Levels:

• Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups: Air Quality Index (AQI) is 101 - 150. Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected. People

with lung disease such as asthma, older adults, children and teenagers, and people who are active outdoors should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion and schedule outdoor activities in the morning when ozone is lower.

- 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 lung disease such as asthma, older adults, children and teenagers, and people who are active outdoors should avoid prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion and schedule outdoor activities in the morning when ozone is lower. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion and schedule outdoor exertion and schedule outdoor activities in the morning when ozone is lower.
- Very Unhealthy: AQI is 201 300. Everyone may experience more serious health effects. People with lung disease such as asthma, older adults, children and teenagers, and people who are active outdoors should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion and schedule outdoor activities in the morning when ozone is lower.



- South Coast AQMD Advisory updates can be found at the following link: <u>http://www.aqmd.gov/advisory</u>
- To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories and forecasts by email, go to <u>http://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: http://www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp

- Hourly air quality forecasts are available at http://www.aqmd.gov/forecast. Check the hourly air quality forecast and the "Cleanest Time of Day" to help plan outdoor activities when the air quality is better.
- 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 <u>www.aqmd.gov</u>, download our award-winning app, or follow us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram</u>.

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