SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

South Coast
AQMD

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South Coast AQMD Issues Smoke Advisory Due to Coastal Fire in Laguna Niguel

Valid Wednesday May 11, 2022 through Thursday May 12, 2022

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

A wildfire named the Coastal Fire is burning in Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park and surrounding neighborhoods between Laguna Niguel and Laguna Beach. As of Wednesday evening, the burn area was reported at 183 acres. Current information on the Coastal Fire can be found on OC Fire Authority's Twitter handle at https://twitter.com/OCFireAuthority.

Past and Current Smoke and Ash Impacts

The Coastal Fire is actively producing smoke on Wednesday evening from burning vegetation and structures based on satellite imagery, webcam imagery, and social media posts. Winds are transporting the smoke plume towards the south and east. At 6:00 pm on Wednesday, South Coast AQMD's regulatory PM2.5 monitors in Mission Viejo and low-cost PM2.5 sensors in Aliso Viejo and Laguna Niguel 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 immediately adjacent to the Coastal Fire will experience the highest AQI levels due to smoke impacts. However, areas further downwind are likely to see lighter smoke levels through Thursday afternoon.

- **Wednesday night**: Residential areas near the fire will be impacted by smoldering. Winds from the west will push smoke over Santiago Peak towards the east. Once over the mountain peaks, smoke will mostly stay aloft during the overnight hours, causing little impacts further downwind. PM2.5 levels in Aliso Viejo and Laguna Niguel may be elevated.
- **Thursday morning**: If the fire continues to produce smoke, lighter west winds will cause some smoke to linger in the area. Again, downwind impacts are expected to be small.

Overall, the air quality is not expected to degrade beyond **Moderate**, except in areas close to the fire, where **Unhealthy** conditions may be possible for several hours. Additional portions of South Orange County may also be affected by smoke from the Coastal Fire.

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

- **Orange County**: Saddleback Valley (Area 19), Central Coastal Orange County (Area 20), Capistrano Valley (Area 21)

- 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

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, 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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