

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 13, 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 Smoke Advisory Due to Sheep Fire

Valid Monday June 13, 2022 through Tuesday June 14, 2022

This advisory is in effect through 6PM Tuesday. South Coast AQMD will issue an update if additional information becomes available.

A wildfire named the Sheep Fire is burning in the Angeles National Forest and on private lands near Wrightwood, CA. As of Monday afternoon, the burn area was reported at 990 acres with 18% containment. Steep terrain, dense vegetation and strong winds are complicating firefighting efforts. Current information on the Sheep Fire can be found on Inciweb at https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/8151/.

Past and Current Smoke and Ash Impacts: The Sheep Fire is actively producing smoke as of Monday afternoon. Winds are transporting the smoke plume towards the east. At 2 pm on Monday, regulatory PM2.5 monitors in Victorville and Big Bear, and low-cost PM2.5 sensors in Hesperia and Lake Arrowhead recorded **Good** to **Moderate** Air Quality Index (AQI) levels. Visit <u>https://www.aqmd.gov/aqdata</u> 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: <u>http://www.aqmd.gov/wildfire-health-info-smoke-tips</u>

Forecasted Smoke and Ash Impacts

Areas immediately adjacent to the Sheep Fire will experience the highest AQI levels due to smoke impacts. However, areas further downwind are likely to see lighter smoke levels through Tuesday evening.

- **Monday night:** Areas near the fire will be impacted by smoldering. Winds from the west will push smoke to higher elevations of the San Bernardino National Forest, causing light impacts downwind. PM2.5 levels in Crestline and Big Bear may be elevated.
- **Tuesday morning:** If the fire continues to produce smoke, lighter northwest winds will move some smoke to Northwest and Central San Bernardino Valleys.

Overall, this fire is not expected to degrade air quality beyond **Moderate**, except in areas close to the fire, where **Unhealthy** conditions may be possible for several hours. AQI levels may also be higher due to ozone impacts unrelated to the fire. Additional portions of Western San Bernardino County may also be affected by smoke from the Sheep Fire.

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

• San Bernardino County: Northwest San Bernardino Valley (Area 32), Central San Bernardino Valley (Area 34), West San Bernardino Mountains (Area 36), Central San Bernardino Mountains (Area 37)



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- 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

- 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 <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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