



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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@SouthCoastAQMD    

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South Coast AQMD Issues Smoke Advisory Due to Route Fire Near Castaic

This advisory is in effect Wednesday, August 31 through Thursday, September 1, 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 Route Fire is burning between Interstate 5 and Lake Hughes Road near Castaic. As of Wednesday afternoon, the burn area was reported at 250 acres with no containment. Current information on the Route Fire can be found by visiting the LA County Fire Department's web site at <https://fire.lacounty.gov/>.

Current Smoke and Ash Impacts

The Route Fire is actively producing smoke on Wednesday afternoon from burning brush. Due to the steep terrain nearby, smoke plumes are rising vertically and moving toward the north and east. At 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, South Coast AQMD's regulatory PM2.5 monitor in Santa Clarita and low-cost PM2.5 sensors in Santa Clarita and Valencia recorded **Good** Air Quality Index (AQI) levels. Visit <https://www.aqmd.gov/aqimap> or download the South Coast AQMD app to view current air quality conditions; note that the map also reflects ozone concentrations, which are expected to be elevated this week. See <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/air-quality-advisories>.

Forecasted Smoke and Ash Impacts

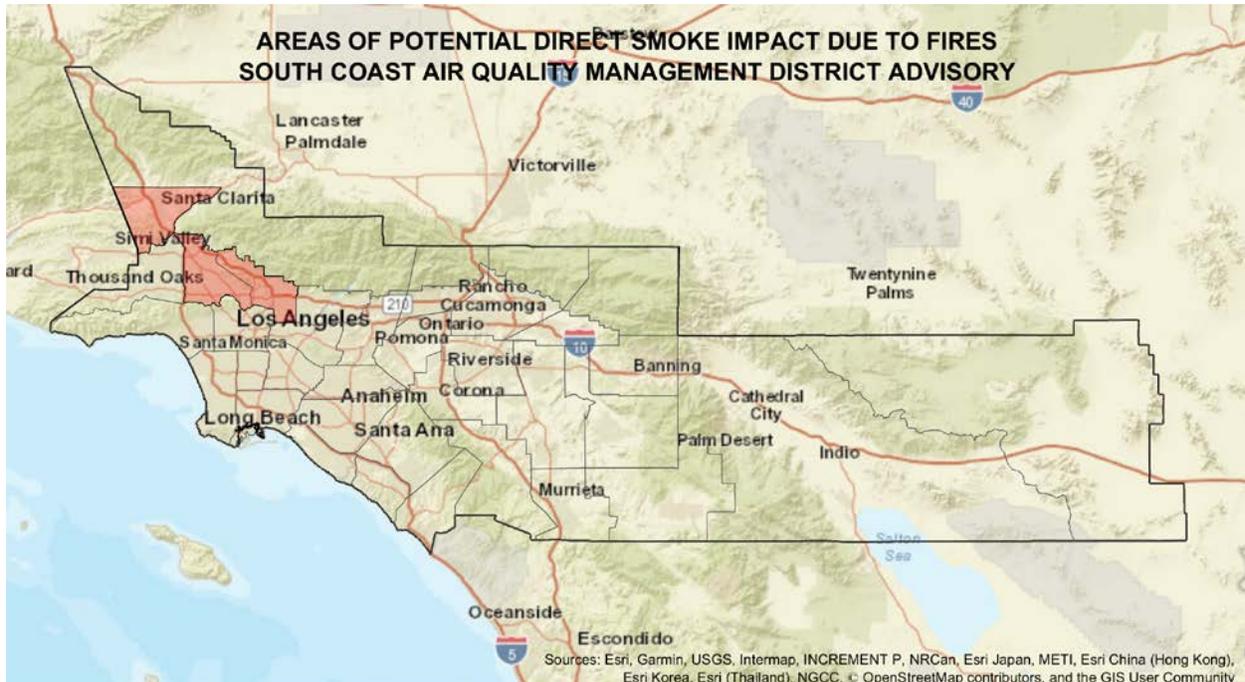
Areas immediately adjacent to the Route Fire will experience the highest AQI levels due to smoke impacts. However, areas further downwind are likely to see lighter smoke levels through Thursday afternoon.

- **Wednesday night:** Residential areas near the fire will be impacted by smoldering. Some smoke could drain into the Santa Clarita Valley, where PM2.5 levels may be elevated.
- **Thursday morning:** If the fire continues to produce smoke, lighter winds will cause some smoke to linger in the area. 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 Central Los Angeles County may also be affected by smoke from the Route Fire. However, in the afternoon hours, high levels of ozone caused by the current heat wave and unrelated to the fire may also lead to poor air quality in the region.

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

- **Los Angeles County:** East San Fernando Valley (Area 7), West San Gabriel Valley (Area 8), Santa Clarita Valley (Area 13)



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>

- 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 www.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: 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 air pollution control agency for major portions of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside 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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