

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 17, 2024

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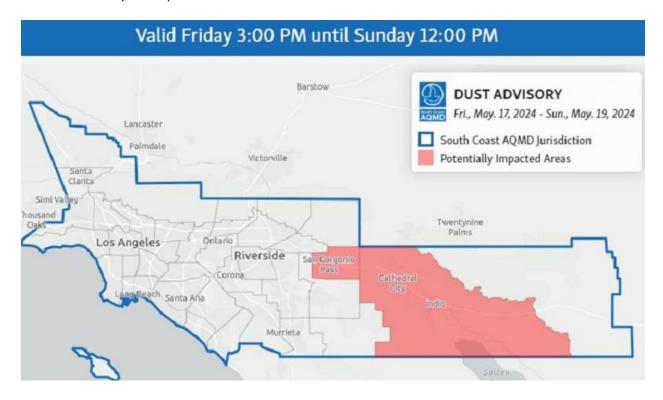
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South Coast AQMD Issues Windblown Dust Advisory for the Coachella Valley

Valid until Sunday 12:00 p.m.



Current Conditions

 Windblown dust particle pollution levels (PM10) are elevated on Friday afternoon and are expected to increase

To view current air quality in your neighborhood, download the <u>South Coast AQMD app</u> or visit <u>www.aqmd.gov/AQImap</u>.

Forecasted Air Quality Impacts

- Windblown dust is expected to cause Air Quality Index (AQI) values to reach Unhealthy levels or higher through at least Sunday
- AQI levels will vary over time and by location depending on wind speed and direction
- AQI levels will likely be highest in the afternoon and evening hours
- This windblown dust event is expected to last several days. South Coast AQMD will issue an update on Sunday morning if poor air quality is expected to persist

Detailed Forecast

Friday afternoon and overnight	AQI levels of Unhealthy or higher are possible with the highest levels expected after 5 PM
Saturday morning	Windblown dust is expected to subside throughout the morning hours as winds decrease
Saturday afternoon and overnight	Windblown dust is expected to again cause Unhealthy or worse AQI levels starting after 5 PM
Sunday morning	Windblown dust is expected to subside throughout the morning hours as winds decrease

South Coast AQMD will issue an update if additional information becomes available.

If you are in an area impacted by windblown dust or ash:

- Limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed or seeking alternate shelter.
- Avoid vigorous physical activity.
- Run your air conditioning and/or an air purifier. If possible, do not use swamp coolers or whole house fans that bring in outside air.
- Help minimize dust pollution by stabilizing loose soils and slowing down if driving on dirt roads.

For more information, see the <u>EPA Guide for Particle Pollution</u> (PDF).

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, X (formerly known as Twitter) and Instagram.