



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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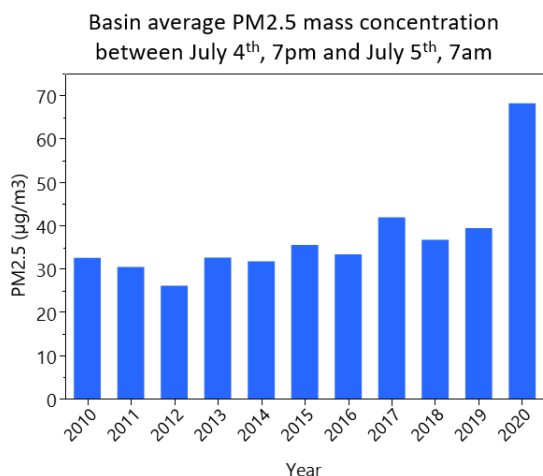
4th of July Fireworks Celebrations Lead to Highest PM2.5 Levels in Over a Decade

DIAMOND BAR – The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) has found that air quality throughout the South Coast Air Basin was substantially worse during 2020 Independence Day weekend than any year in the last decade. Based on video footage and the cancellation of most larger public events, it is likely that a combination of increased use of personal “backyard” fireworks and weather conditions were the main factors.

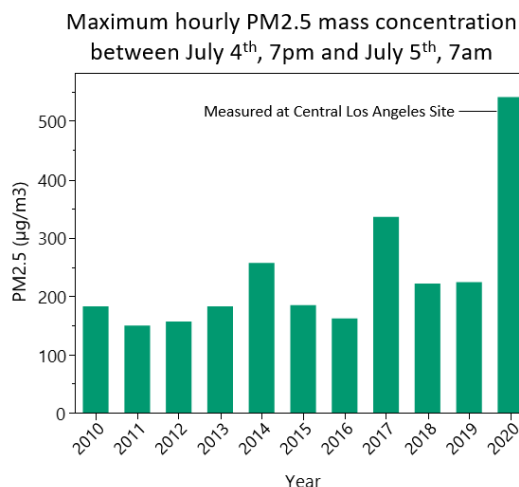
Fireworks are known to emit high levels of particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) as well as metal air pollutants, all of which can contribute to negative health effects. Breathing fine particulate matter can lead to a wide variety of cardiovascular and respiratory health effects such as heart attacks, asthma aggravation, decreased lung function, coughing, or difficulty breathing and may lead to premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

Overall average concentrations of PM2.5 in the Basin were 70% higher than previous years between 7 p.m. on July 4th to 7 a.m. July 5th. South Coast AQMD monitors picked up an even greater increase in the maximum hourly measurements of PM2.5, with the highest concentrations detected at the Central Los Angeles, North Hollywood and Anaheim stations. Some instruments were found to have so much particulate matter residue on them that it resulted in readings so high the data could not be properly validated. During the overnight and early morning hours of July 4th-5th, air quality reached Very Unhealthy and even Hazardous levels in portions of Los Angeles and Orange counties.

In addition to the increase of personal “backyard” fireworks, the area faced unfavorable weather conditions. Dry stagnant air led to trapped air pollution that lingered for longer than usual.



*Based on validated data



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South Coast AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, 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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