

# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Led to Elevated PM2.5 Levels

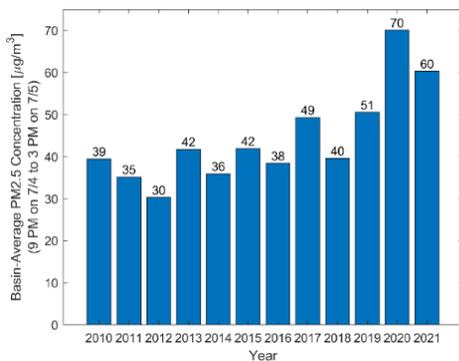
*The air quality index reached Hazardous levels in parts of the South Coast Air Basin*

**DIAMOND BAR** – South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) monitors recorded high levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in the South Coast Air Basin on July 4<sup>th</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup>. While PM2.5 levels were lower than the historically high levels seen after last year’s Independence Day celebrations PM2.5 levels were still higher than 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations in the past. The use of personal “backyard” fireworks and commercial fireworks displays were the main contributors to the poor air quality.

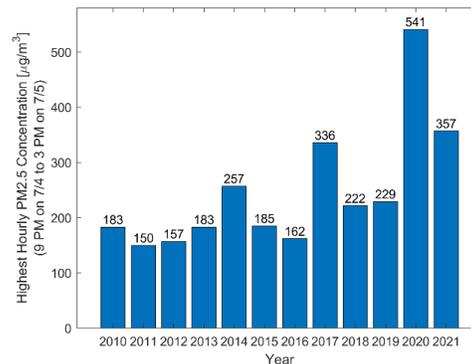
Fireworks are known to emit high levels of PM2.5 and PM10 as well as metal air pollutants, all of which can contribute to negative health effects. Breathing high levels of fine particulate matter can lead to a wide variety of cardiovascular and respiratory health effects such as heart attacks, asthma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

This year, air pollution levels due to fireworks, were the highest since the Bobcat Fire in September 2020. The average PM2.5 levels in the South Coast Air Basin were the second highest for Independence Day in the past decade, but still 14% lower than last year. Monitors in the valleys and inland areas detected air quality at **Unhealthy** to **Hazardous** levels, with the highest concentration recorded in Ontario.

**PM2.5 Basin-Average Concentration\***



**Highest Hourly PM2.5 Concentration in Basin\***



\* Data measured from 9 p.m. on July 4<sup>th</sup> to 3 p.m. on July 5<sup>th</sup>

Air quality on July 4<sup>th</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup> varies each year depending on the amount of emissions from fireworks and weather conditions. During periods of poor air quality, residents are encouraged to remain indoors with their windows and doors shut and avoid vigorous physical activity. Air conditioning and/or an air purifier can help reduce indoor pollution levels. Residents can check their air quality with the South Coast AQMD app or at [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov).

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](http://www.aqmd.gov), download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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