

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 26, 2021 MEDIA CONTACTS: Brad Whitaker, (909) 396-3456, Cell: (909) 323-9516 Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431 press@aqmd.gov

South Coast AQMD Issues Special Air Quality Advisory due to an Industrial Fire in Compton

Valid: Friday, February 26, 2021

This advisory is in effect through Friday afternoon. South Coast AQMD will issue an update if additional information becomes available.

A large industrial fire that started on Friday morning is currently burning near the intersection of E Banning St. and N. Santa Fe Ave. in Compton. As of Friday morning, the fire has engulfed a pallet yard and bus yard, releasing heavy smoke that is rising vertically above the fire. Air quality levels in the region from regulatory air quality monitors and low-cost sensors have remained in the **Good** to **Moderate** range, however, unhealthful levels are likely near the fire.

As of Friday morning at 8 a.m., winds are calm. Winds from the southwest are expected to increase as the day progresses, reaching 10 mph in the afternoon. If the fire is still producing heavy smoke, neighborhoods northeast of the fire may see elevated air quality levels until a shift in winds in the late afternoon. Around 3-4 PM, this wind shift may push smoke towards the southeast of the fire. Neighborhoods directly downwind of the fire may experience **Very Unhealthy** air quality at times on Friday.

In any area impacted by smoke: If you smell smoke or see ash due to a fire, 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 fire, see South Coast AQMD's Smoke & Ash Health & Safety Tips page: <u>http://www.aqmd.gov/wildfire-health-info-smoke-tips</u> Areas of direct impacts and poor air quality may include portions of:

• Los Angeles County: South Central Los Angeles County (Area 12)



- South Coast AQMD Advisory updates can be found at the following link: <u>www.aqmd.gov/advisory</u>
- To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories and forecasts by email, go to <u>www.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: www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp
- Air quality forecasts are available at <u>http://www.aqmd.gov/forecast</u>
- For a map of South Coast AQMD Forecast Areas, see <u>http://www.aqmd.gov/ForecastAreas</u>.

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 <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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