



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 20, 2026

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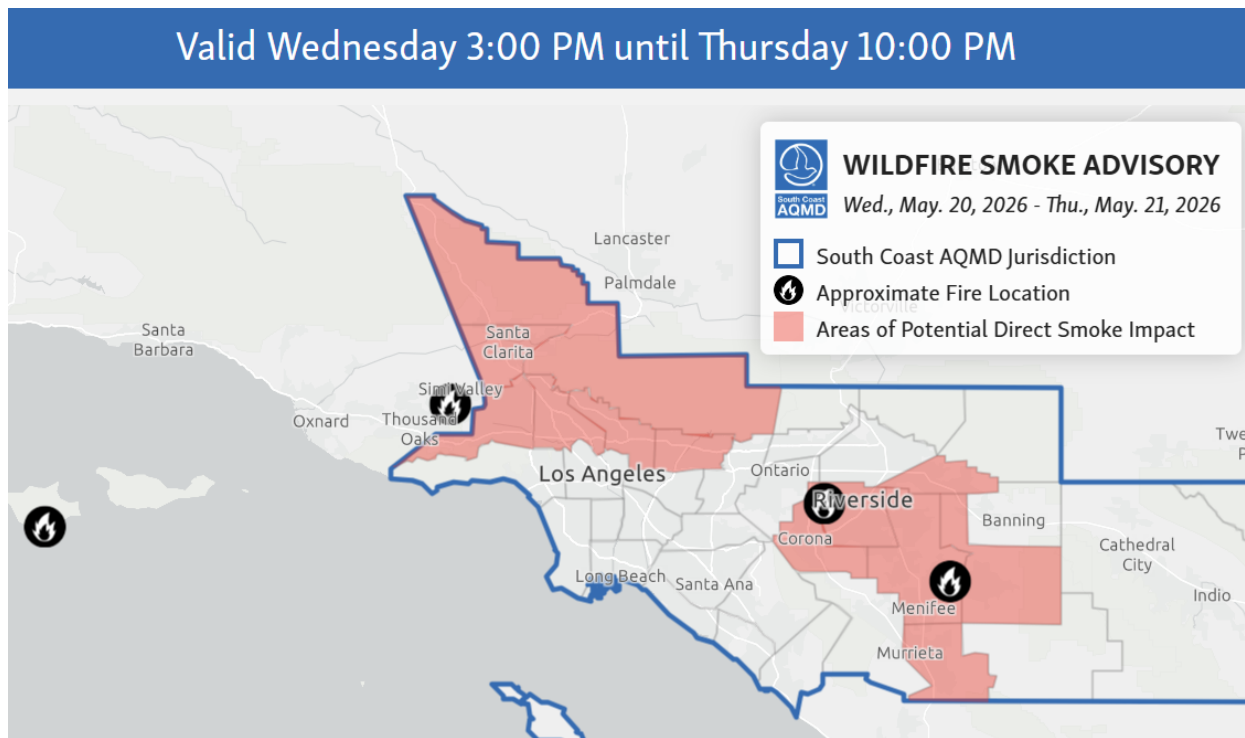
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## South Coast AQMD Extends Smoke Advisory due to Multiple Fires

*Valid until Thursday at 10:00 PM*



### Current conditions

- The [Bain Fire](#) has burned 1,456 acres in Riverside County and is 25% contained as of 2:00 PM on May 20, 2026.
- The [Verona Fire](#) has burned 500 acres in Riverside County and is 5% contained.
- The [Sandy Fire](#) has burned 1,698 acres in Ventura County near Simi Valley and is 15% contained.
- The [Santa Rosa Island Fire](#) has burned 16,942 acres and is 26% contained.
- PM2.5 levels were in the **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** air quality index (AQI) category at times Tuesday night and Wednesday morning in the San Fernando Valley, Central Los Angeles,

Jurupa Valley/Riverside area, Perris/Hemet area, and Diamond Bar, with some spikes up to **Unhealthy** AQI.

- PM2.5 levels were in the **Moderate** AQI category in other areas of the South Coast Air Basin. Smoke has lingered on Wednesday morning and early afternoon in part due to light winds leading to pollution buildup.

Conditions may change quickly due to fire activity and weather. Download the [South Coast AQMD app](#) or visit [www.aqmd.gov/AQImap](http://www.aqmd.gov/AQImap) to view current air quality in your neighborhood.

### Forecasted Smoke and Air Quality Impacts

- Widespread **Moderate** smoke impacts are expected across the LA Basin, Catalina Island, Inland Empire, and Coachella Valley.
- The Sandy Fire is expected to directly impact areas from Simi Valley to San Fernando Valley and out to Arcadia where AQI may reach the **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** category or higher at times.
- The Bain and Verona Fires are expected to directly impact portions of the Inland Empire where AQI may reach the **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** category or higher at times.
- Smoke from the Santa Rosa Island and Sandy Fires that is already over the ocean is expected to come onshore overnight.
- Weak winds are forecasted over the coming days, limiting smoke dispersion out of the region.
- Smoke impacts can vary over time and by location. If you see ash or smell smoke, take precautions to protect your health.
- Note that ozone is forecasted to cause **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** AQI in several areas. Most of this is typical for this time of year and unrelated to the fires. For more info, see the [forecast](#).

### If you are in an area impacted by smoke:

- 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.
- Avoid burning wood in your fireplace or firepit and minimize sources of indoor air pollution such as candles, incense, pan-frying, and grilling.
- If you must be outside, a properly fit N95 or P100 respirator may provide some protection.

For more information, visit [www.aqmd.gov/smokesafety](http://www.aqmd.gov/smokesafety).

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