



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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@SouthCoastAQMD



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 16, 2026

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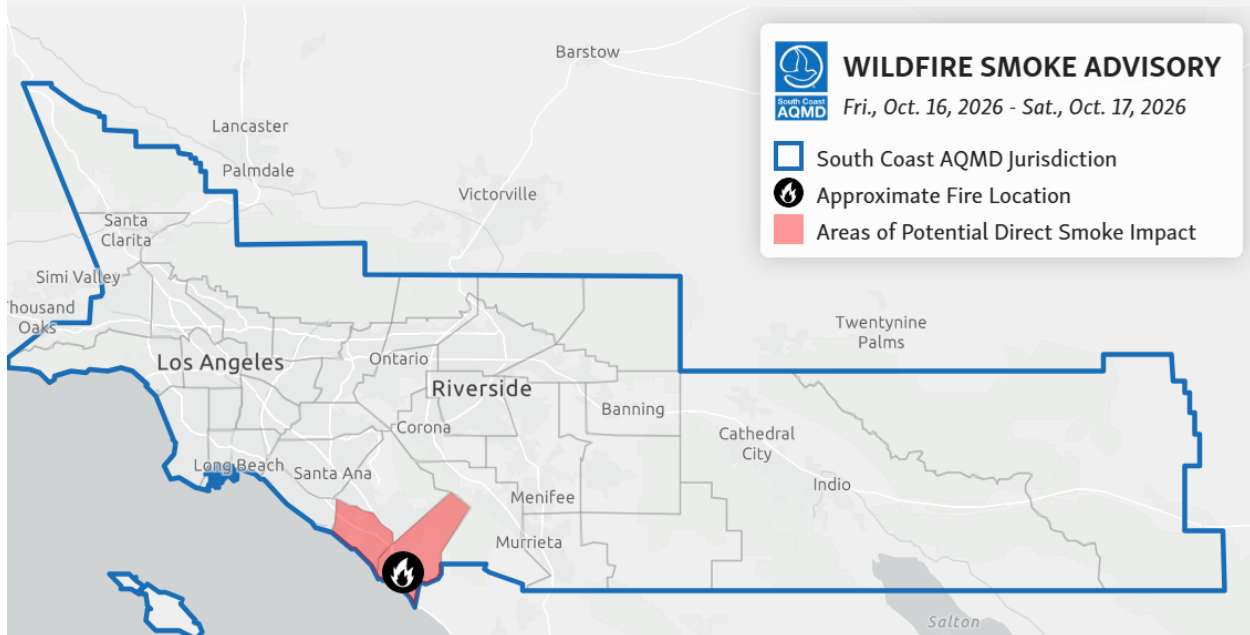
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South Coast AQMD Issues Wildfire Smoke Advisory Due to the Norte Fire

Valid until Saturday at 10:00 AM

Valid this Friday 4:00 PM until Saturday 10:00 AM



Current Conditions

- The Norte Fire at Eminencia Del Norte, San Clemente began around 11:30 AM and has burned approximately 465.5 acres as of 3:30 PM on Friday.
- On Friday afternoon, smoke from the fire is rising high above the ground based on webcam and satellite imagery.

- Monitors and sensors show that current Air Quality Index (AQI) levels are still in the **Good to Moderate** category in surrounding areas.
- More information is available on WatchDuty at <https://share.watchduty.org/i/124958?ts=1792185162000> and on CalFire at <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2026/10/16/norte-fire>

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

Forecasted Smoke and Air Quality Impacts

Smoke and particle pollution (PM2.5) is expected to reach the **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** AQI category Friday evening through Saturday morning in parts of South Orange County including San Clemente, Dana Point, San Juan Capistrano, and Laguna Niguel. AQI levels are expected to decrease on Saturday after sunrise. AQI levels across most of South Orange County are expected to be **Good to Moderate** starting Saturday daytime.

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

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.

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](#).

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