

CleanAir CONGRESS

FALL 2008

Air Pollution is a Serious Health Problem

Extra! Extra! Read All About It: Dirty Air Affects Your Health

Air pollution is a significant public health problem. Despite significant progress in recent years, this region still has the worst air quality in the nation. The federal health-protective air quality standards are exceeded, on average, on one out of every four days. The continued population growth, combined with the dramatic increase in international goods movement passing through the ports, presents a significant and growing concern for the health of Southern California residents.

Scientific evidence ties exposure to harmful air pollution, especially toxic diesel emissions, even for short durations, to:

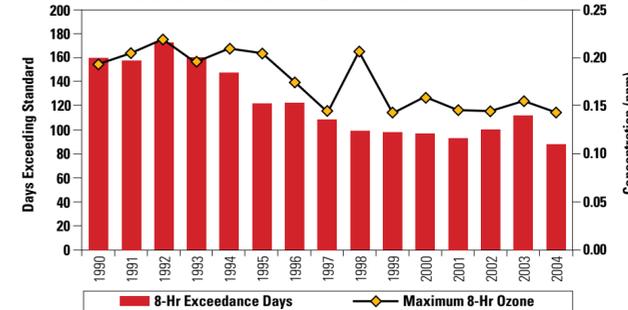
- Respiratory illnesses, especially asthma
- Cardiovascular disease
- Infertility
- Cancer
- Premature death

Children, the elderly, and those with chronic health conditions, such as respiratory and heart disease and diabetes, are more vulnerable to the harmful effects of air pollution.

Diesel exhaust is especially harmful. Diesel soot contains toxic chemicals, including more than 40 compounds that may cause cancer. Diesel particles, also called particulate matter or PM, are very small. Generally, the smaller the particles, the more likely they are to get into the lungs and possibly be absorbed into the body.



PROGRESS IN REDUCING OZONE POLLUTION 1990-2004



Progress Has Been Made But We Have a Long Way to Go

Air quality has improved dramatically over the past few decades. The catastrophic episodes of air pollution experienced in the 1950's and 1960's have been eliminated, but today's level of

air pollution continues to be a serious threat to public health. We need to bring the red bars, in the chart above, down to 0 as soon as possible, but no later than the federal deadline of 2024.

Why is Air Pollution a Problem in this Region?

Air pollution comes from many sources, including: vehicles, ships, locomotives, power plants, small businesses and products used at home.



These emissions are released into the air, where they react with each other in sunlight to form smog. The sun produces an inversion layer of

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Call 1-800-CUT-SMOG to Report Air Quality Problems

You can help AQMD protect public health by reporting air quality problems, such as smoking vehicles, excessive odors, smoke, dust, or other air contaminants to

the AQMD's toll free line 1-800-CUT-SMOG between 7a.m. - 5:30p.m. (Tuesday through Friday).

Key phone numbers at the AQMD:

Air Quality Complaint Hotline	1-800-CUT-SMOG®
Clean Air Congress	1-800-4 CLN AIR
Environmental Justice	(909) 396-3185
Fee, Variance and Hearing Board	(909) 396-2500
Fleet Rule Implementation Hotline	(909) 396-3044
Public Advisor	(909) 396-3185
Public Affairs and Local Government Office	(909) 396-3242
Small Business Assistance HOTLINE	1-800-388-2121
Air Quality Information	1-800-CUT-SMOG®
South Coast AQMD (general information)	(909) 396-2000

Clean Air Congress i breathe i belong

Clean cars for clean air

We're the Air Quality Management District

The Clean Air Congress is sponsored by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, or AQMD. We are your regional government agency responsible for cleaning the air in the South Coast air basin.



Be informed and involved in the fight against air pollution

Do you want to breathe clean air? Do you want to join the fight against air pollution? If so, then you belong in the Clean Air Congress.

The Clean Air Congress is an active group of southlanders united to fight health threatening air pollution. Members are empowered with information and opportunities to make their voices heard from throughout the southland. Membership is free and open to everyone.

We will keep you informed about:

- Air quality
- New technologies like clean-fuel cars
- Health problems caused by air pollution
- Air quality laws and regulations

You will also receive:

- Invitations to events and town hall meetings
- Notices of hearings regarding new legislation
- The Clean Air Congress newsletter, VOICE

Saving energy reduces air pollution



Our newest service to our Clean Air Congress members is providing timely emails with the latest news. Even if you don't have email, the newsletter and other occasional mailings will keep you updated on what's happening. If you provide a phone number we can also notify you by phone of the most important news like legislative hearings and local town hall meetings. We will also have news and information at: www.cleanaircongress.org



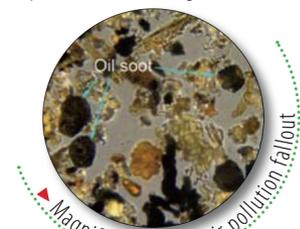
Portable air sampler

Air pollution is a serious health and environmental problem

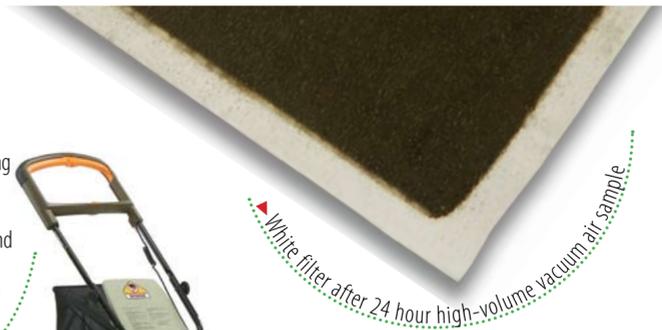
Since the fight against air pollution began over 50 years ago in Los Angeles, the air in our region has improved dramatically. However, air pollution is still a serious health risk. Air pollution causes or contributes to everything from burning, watery eyes and fatigue, to asthma and other respiratory diseases, lung damage, cancer, birth defects, and premature death.

Air pollution is also one of the major factors contributing to global warming. Global warming is widely recognized by many scientists as a threat to the world's climate and ecosystems.

Air quality in our region continues to improve but is still among the worst in the



Magnified-photo of air pollution fallout



White filter after 24 hour high-volume vacuum air sample



Electric mowers are green and clean

Our air here is unhealthy one out of three days. We still have a long way to go to clean the air, but by working together we can do it.

What you can do to help clean the air

- Be informed about air pollution and related health issues

Air Quality Quiz

In our region...

1. How many square miles does our region cover?
2. How many people live here?
3. How many motor vehicles do we have?
4. How many pounds per day of pollution goes into our air every day?

In our state...

5. How many die each year from diseases caused or aggravated by air pollution?
6. What is the risk of contracting cancer from breathing chemicals in the air over our lifetimes?
7. How does soot in the smoggiest areas affect the risk of fatal heart attack?

Answers: 1. Over 10,000; 2. About 17 million; 3. Over 12 million; 4. Nearly 13,000,000 pounds - PER DAY; 5. An estimated 9000; 6. One in every 15,000 people - about 66 per million; 7. As much as 39% higher



South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Cleaning the air that we breathe...

AQMD is Working to Clean Our Air



All residents have a right to live and work in an environment of clean air. The South Coast Air Quality Management District, AQMD, is committed to undertaking all necessary steps to protect public health from air pollution with sensitivity to the impacts of its actions on the community and business.

AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties' nearly 16 million people. AQMD is responsible for controlling air pollution primarily from stationary sources, such as power plants, refineries, factories, auto body shops, dry cleaners, etc. Any business that has emissions is required to have a permit, including anything from large

AQMD is Working to Clean Our Air...

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power plants and refineries to the corner gas station. AQMD continuously monitors the air quality at 35 fixed locations throughout the four-county area.

By far, the largest percentage of harmful air emissions in our region come from cars, trucks, buses as well as construction equipment, ships, trains and airplanes. Emissions standards for mobile sources are established by state or federal agencies.



AQMD is Helping to Develop the Technology to Clean the Air

AQMD has funded projects that encourage the development and demonstration of less-polluting automobiles, buses, trucks, construction equipment, boats, locomotives and other off-road vehicles.



For the past 20 years, AQMD's Clean Fuels Program has supported the rapid development and deployment of progressively lower emitting technologies through cutting-edge research and development. Just a few examples of the technologies that have been supported are plug-in hybrid cars, fuel cell vehicles, natural gas vehicles and infrastructure and alternative technologies.

AQMD Initiatives Underway to Prevent Climate Change

Global warming, or climate change, as it is often called, is an issue that affects everyone. It refers to an average increase in the Earth's temperature, which in turn causes changes in climate, including air pollution. A warmer Earth may affect rainfall. It may also cause a rise in sea level and may impact plants, wildlife and humans. The world's leading



climate scientists have determined that certain pollutants (carbon dioxide – CO₂, methane, nitrous oxide and hydrofluorocarbons and others) are causing the sun's heat to be trapped rather than reflected back into space, causing a global average increase in temperature. The burning of fossil fuels, like oil and coal, cause greenhouse gases to escape into the air and these gases are causing most of the warming. Another cause is



deforestation (cutting down trees). Trees soak up carbon dioxide, one of the greenhouse gases, from the air.

AQMD has launched the SoCal Climate Solutions Exchange to encourage the exchange of carbon emission reduction credits in our region. These credits will be used to offset the "carbon footprint" of companies. AQMD is working closely with the California Air Resources Board and the California Legislature on initiatives to prevent climate change, such as the low carbon fuel standard.

AQMD Programs Encourage Environmental Stewardship

In order to achieve the goal of cleaning our region's air, AQMD needs the partnership of organizations and members of the public.

AQMD launched the Clean Air Congress, a popular free service reaching out to all sectors of the community to educate and encourage public participation in policy issues surrounding air quality and its impacts on our health and the environ-

ment. AQMD has had a long standing partnership with business and environmental organizations, and recently initiated the Communities of Faith Partnership to establish new partnerships with the many faith organizations in our region.

AQMD's environmental justice policies seek to prevent any community from having to suffer

a disproportionate burden of poor air quality. AQMD is committed to equitable environmental policymaking and enforcement to protect the health of all residents, regardless of age, culture, ethnicity, gender, race, socioeconomic status, or geographic location, from the health effects of air pollution.



AQMD is committed to protecting your health from air pollution.

Dirty Air Affects Your Health...

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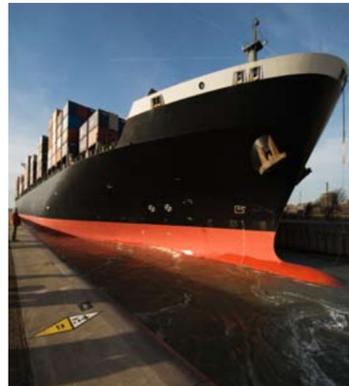
warm air pushing the smog close to the ground. Our region's unique geography contributes to the air quality challenges as the ocean breezes push the smog against the mountains where the smog gets trapped.

What are Air Toxics

Air toxics are substances released into the air that may cause adverse health effects. AQMD conducts the Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study (MATES) in order to monitor and evaluate air toxics in our region. The original MATES study was conducted by AQMD in the late 1980's, the subsequent MATES II study was published in 2000. AQMD is completing work on the MATES III study, which consists of many elements. These include a monitoring program, an updated emission inventory of toxic air contaminants and a modeling effort to characterize risk from air toxics across the region.

Some interesting facts about the region:

- There are nearly 17 million residents.
- The area is more than 10,000 square miles.
- There are about 12 million vehicles.
- Nearly 13,000,000 pounds of air pollution is produced per day.
- The number of goods passing through our ports has grown significantly in recent years, adding trucks, trains and other equipment to the already crowded roads and rail lines. This growth is expected to continue over the next decade.
- About 80% of the harmful air pollution in our region comes from cars, trucks, trains, ships and aircraft.



Do Your Part to Reduce Pollution



Make Informed Choices

- AQMD's Clean Air Choice is a resource providing information to help you make personal transportation decisions that benefit the environment and improve air quality. The Clean Air Choice website, www.cleanairchoice.org, contains information on low-emission vehicles, from full-size passenger cars to SUVs.
- AQMD's Lawn Mower Exchange program helps you to replace an old operable gasoline-powered lawn mower with a cleaner electric-powered mower for only \$100.

- Other opportunities for you to do your part to reduce air pollution, including:
 - Replace your old barbecue that can be a significant source of air pollution with a natural gas-powered grill.
 - Modify your commuting by carpooling, riding a bicycle and using public transit.



- Read paint labels and choose coatings that contain little or no smog-forming pollutants, identified as volatile organic compounds or VOCs.



- Consider using a renewable energy source like solar power for your home.
- Plant a tree. Trees can capture fine particles in the air and absorb pollutants such as ozone.



HEALTHY HEARTHS

Have a Healthy Hearth

This year, AQMD started a program called "Healthy Hearths." Healthy Hearths will reduce harmful fine particulate pollution from fireplaces and wood stoves through a regulation, incentive program and public outreach efforts. Wood stoves and other wood-burning devices are used in an estimated 1.4 million households in the Southland. Wood smoke from fireplaces and wood stoves causes more than five times the fine particulate pollution as all of the power plants in the region.

The new regulation allows only the cleanest-burning wood stoves and heaters to be sold in the Southland. It also sets standards for the amount of moisture allowed in the wood that is sold. Another part of the regulation, which goes into

effect next March, applies to new homes and commercial buildings. Only fireplaces fueled by gas (such as gas logs) may be installed. There are some exemptions, so check the AQMD website – www.aqmd.gov or call 1-800-CUT-SMOG for more details.

The "Healthy Hearths" incentive will help to encourage residents to convert existing wood-burning fireplaces to clean-burning gas logs. The program, offering an incentive of \$100 to \$150 per gas log set, will be launched this fall.

The Healthy Hearths public outreach campaign will focus on informing residents of the health effects of wood smoke and days when air pollution levels are forecast to be unhealthy.