



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** October 12, 2019

## **South Coast AQMD Issues Smoke Advisory Due to Saddleridge Fire in Los Angeles County**

*Valid: Saturday, October 12 through Sunday, October 13, 2019*

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

The Saddleridge Fire is burning near Sylmar, Granada Hills, and Porter Ranch in Los Angeles County. As of 7:34 am on Saturday, the burn area was reported at 7,552 acres with 19% containment. Based on satellite and webcam imagery, the Saddleridge fire is producing visible smoke with little plume rise that is currently blowing towards the south on Saturday morning. As a result, low-cost sensors are showing elevated PM2.5 concentrations throughout the entire San Fernando Valley, areas west of central Los Angeles, and coastal areas west of the 110-Freeway. The South Coast AQMD's monitors in Reseda, North Hollywood, and Pacoima are also showing elevated PM2.5 concentrations, which is resulting in Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups AQI levels on Saturday morning. Visit <https://www.aqmd.gov/aqdata> to view current air quality conditions.

The National Weather Service has continued a red flag warning until 6 p.m. throughout the Los Angeles County mountains due to low humidity and gusty winds. Rapid fire spread and extreme fire behavior is still possible, <https://www.weather.gov/lox/>.

Winds in the area of the Saddleridge Fire are expected to shift mid-day, and will push smoke towards the north. This will lead to partial clearing of the San Fernando Valley south of the 405/5 interchange and will likely clear out the smoke in areas west of central Los Angeles and coastal areas west of the 110-Freeway.

Winds are expected to shift around sunset on Saturday evening, bringing more smoke back into the San Fernando Valley, possibly reaching the Pasadena area in the late evening hours. Low mixing heights in the atmosphere overnight could lead to lower smoke plume rise and elevated ground level concentrations of PM2.5 throughout the late-night hours. Another wind shift in the early morning hours on Sunday may help to reduce smoke concentrations once again.

In summary, if the fire continues to generate smoke on Saturday afternoon through Sunday morning, smoke may impact portions of the San Fernando Valley and possibly the Pasadena area. This could result in elevated PM2.5 concentrations and Unhealthy air quality throughout the advisory period.

Areas of direct impacts and poor air quality may include portions of:

- **Los Angeles County:** Central Los Angeles (Area 1), Northwest Coastal LA County (Area 2), Southwest Coastal LA County (Area 3), South Coastal LA (Area 4), Southeast LA County (Area 5), West San Fernando Valley (Area 6), East San Fernando Valley (Area 7), West San Gabriel Valley (Area 8), East San Bernardino Valley (Area 9), Pomona-Walnut Valley (Area 10), South San Gabriel Valley (Area 11), South Central Los Angeles County (Area 12), Santa Clarita Valley (Area 13), San Gabriel Mountains (Area 15)



***In any area impacted by smoke:*** If you smell smoke or see ash due to a wildfire, 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 wildfire, see South Coast AQMD's Wildfire Smoke & Ash Health & Safety Tips page: <http://www.aqmd.gov/wildfire-health-info-smoke-tips>.

- South Coast AQMD Advisory updates can be found at the following link: [www.aqmd.gov/advisory](http://www.aqmd.gov/advisory)
- To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories and forecasts by email, go to [www.AirAlerts.org](http://www.AirAlerts.org)
- To view current air quality conditions by region in an interactive map, see [www.aqmd.gov/aqimap](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](http://www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp)
- Air quality forecasts are available at <http://www.aqmd.gov/forecast>

- For a map of South Coast AQMD Forecast Areas, see <http://www.aqmd.gov/ForecastAreas>

South Coast AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, 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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