



South Coast
AQMD

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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South Coast AQMD Continues Smoke Advisory Due to Bobcat Fire and El Dorado Fire

Valid: Thursday, September 17, through Friday, September 18, 2020

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

Two major local wildfires are affecting air quality in the region. A wildfire named the Bobcat Fire is burning north of Azusa, Duarte, Monrovia, and Arcadia in the Angeles National Forest. As of 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, the burn area was approximately 50,539 acres with 3% containment. Current information on the Bobcat Fire can be found on the Incident Information System (InciWeb) at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7152>.

A wildfire named the El Dorado Fire is burning in the San Bernardino Mountains near Yucaipa in San Bernardino County. As of 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, the burn area was reported at 18,506 acres with 63% containment. Current information on the El Dorado Fire can be found on the Incident Information System at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7148/>.

Past and Current Smoke and Ash Impacts

Both the Bobcat Fire and the El Dorado Fires are producing substantial amounts of smoke on Thursday morning. Smoke from the El Dorado Fire and the northern extent of the Bobcat Fire is being transported towards the north and northwest based on satellite imagery. However, smoke from the southwestern extent of the Bobcat fire is being transported into cities along the 210 corridor in Los Angeles County. Beyond that area, some smoke is still present throughout the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley.

Smoke impacts were widespread on Wednesday with most South Coast AQMD continuous PM2.5 monitors recording 24-hour average concentrations exceeding federal air quality standards, except for monitors in Lake Elsinore, Temecula, Upland, the San Fernando Valley, and Orange County. Monitors throughout the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction measured Air Quality Index (AQI) levels in the **Unhealthy**

for Sensitive Groups to Unhealthy Categories at times throughout the day yesterday. **Very Unhealthy** values were recorded at times near the Bobcat and El Dorado fires with South Coast AQMD's temporary monitors and low-cost sensors. The fire is also producing ash particles that are small enough to be detected by South Coast AQMD's PM10 monitors in addition to the smoke detected by the PM2.5 monitors. Visit <https://www.aqmd.gov/aqdata> to view current air quality conditions.

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>.

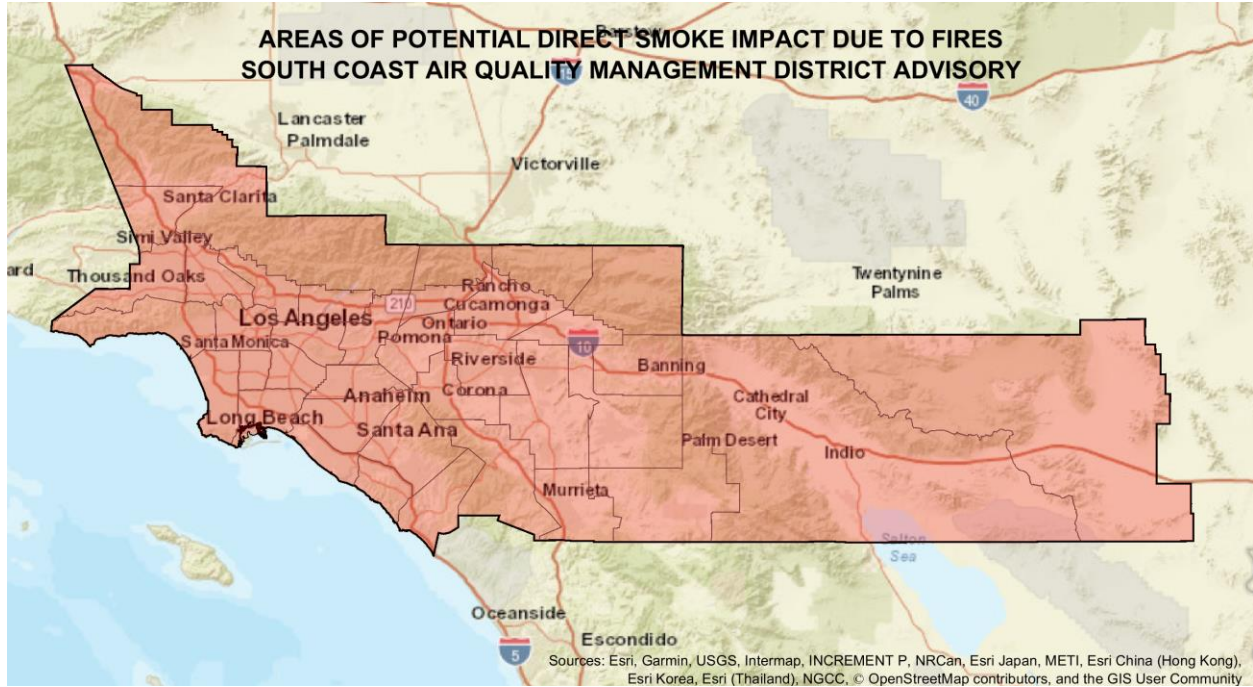
Forecasted Smoke and Ash Impacts

Most of the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction will experience smoke impacts with the highest AQI values occurring in direct proximity to the Bobcat and El Dorado Fires. Smoke and ash impacts will be highly variable in both timing and location through Friday.

- **Thursday afternoon through Thursday evening:** Smoke from the Bobcat Fire will persist in areas along the 210 in Los Angeles County as well as the San Gabriel Mountains. Improvement is expected throughout the region as winds come from the southwest and push smoke to the northeast. Smoke from the El Dorado Fire will persist throughout the day in the San Bernardino Mountains.
- **Overnight Thursday through Friday morning:** Winds will be light and variable overnight. Areas south of the Bobcat Fire along the I-10 corridor from Pacific Palisades to Rancho Cucamonga along with the San Fernando Valley, the Santa Monica Mountains, and southern Los Angeles County will likely see the highest particulate matter levels as smoke is likely to remain closer to the ground overnight. The San Bernardino Valley, Perris Valley, the San Bernardino Mountains, San Geronio Pass, and Coachella Valley are predicted to see the highest particulate levels from the El Dorado Fire. Other areas of the South Coast Air Basin will see smoke impacts throughout this period to a lesser extent.
- **Friday afternoon:** Onshore winds that move from the coast towards inland areas will start mid-day and will likely move smoke to the northeast and east into the mountains of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties and out of the South Coast Air Basin leading to some clearing. Modest smoke impacts may persist throughout the rest of the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley due to smoke from the Northern and Central California fires.
- **Extended Outlook:** Significant smoke impacts in the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley will likely continue until fire activity decreases for the Bobcat Fire, El Dorado Fire, and other fires in California. South Coast Air Quality Management District will continue to provide daily smoke advisory updates until air quality impacts from smoke subside.

In order to avoid increasing PM2.5 levels even further, South Coast AQMD recommends that the public avoid burning wood during periods of poor air quality. Per South Coast AQMD Rule 444, burning wood on the beach is prohibited on Thursday, September 16th and Friday, September 17th due to forecasted AQI values above 100 in coastal areas, except in area 18 (North Coastal Orange County) on Friday September 17th.

Areas of direct impacts and poor air quality may include all portions of the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction. **Very Unhealthy** or higher AQI levels due to PM_{2.5} concentrations are possible in areas of direct smoke impacts. Impacts will be highly variable throughout the day, impacting different parts of the region at different times.



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 Gabriel 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)
- **Orange County:** Northern Orange County (Area 16), Central Orange County (Area 17), North Coastal Orange County (Area 18), Saddleback Valley (Area 19), Central Coastal Orange County (Area 20), Capistrano Valley (Area 21)
- **Riverside County:** Corona-Norco (Area 22), Metropolitan Riverside County (Area 23), Perris Valley (Area 24), Lake Elsinore (Area 25), Temecula Valley (Area 26), Anza Valley (Area 27), Hemet-San Jacinto Valley (Area 28), San Geronio Pass (Area 29), Coachella Valley (Area 30), East Riverside County (Area 31)
- **San Bernardino County:** Northwest San Bernardino Valley (Area 32), Southwest San Bernardino Valley (Area 33), Central San Bernardino Valley (Area 34), East San Bernardino Valley (Area 35), West San Bernardino Mountains (Area 36), Central San Bernardino Mountains (Area 37), East San Bernardino Mountains (Area 38).

- South Coast AQMD Advisory updates can be found at the following link: www.aqmd.gov/advisory
- To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories and forecasts by email, go to www.AirAlerts.org
- 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 <http://www.aqmd.gov/forecast>
- For South Coast AQMD Daily Rule 403.1 High Wind Forecasts for the Coachella Valley call (909) 396-2399 or 1-800-CUT-SMOG
- 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, download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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