



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## South Coast AQMD Issues Smoke Advisory Due to Blue Ridge Fire

**Valid: Monday, October 26, through Tuesday, October 27, 2020**

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

A wildfire named the Blue Ridge Fire is burning in Yorba Linda near Blue Ridge Drive and Big Horn Mountain Way in Orange County. The size of the fire was reported to be 1120 acres as of 4:00 p.m. on Monday. Current information on the Blue Ridge Fire can be found on the Orange County Fire Authority's twitter page at: [https://twitter.com/OCFA\\_PIO](https://twitter.com/OCFA_PIO) and also on CAL FIRE's website at: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/10/26/blue-ridge-fire/>.

### Past and Current Smoke and Ash Impacts

The Blue Ridge Fire is producing substantial amounts of smoke on Monday afternoon based on satellite imagery, webcam imagery, and social media posts. Strong Santa Ana winds are moving the smoke plume towards the west and southwest into Yorba Linda, Fullerton, Anaheim, and Orange. South Coast AQMD's monitor at Anaheim has measured hourly PM2.5 values in the **Moderate to Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** Air Quality Index (AQI) categories since Monday morning. Low-cost PM2.5 sensors in Anaheim and Fullerton have been in the **Unhealthy** AQI category since Monday afternoon. 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

- **Monday afternoon and overnight:** Winds will be from the north and northeast on Monday afternoon with winds of 15 – 35 mph, moving smoke towards the south and southwest into Orange County. Cities such as Yorba Linda, Fullerton, Anaheim, and Orange will likely have the most significant smoke impacts. Impacts are also possible in Southern Los Angeles County in the evening and overnight hours. Pollution levels may increase during the overnight hours as smoke is expected to remain closer to the ground.
- **Tuesday morning and afternoon:** Winds will be from the north and east on Tuesday. Sustained winds are expected to decrease as the day progresses. Areas southwest and west of the fire such as Northern and Central Orange County and Southern Los Angeles County will likely see the highest PM2.5 levels.

Overall, meteorological conditions will bring smoke and ash into portions of Orange County. **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** or higher AQI levels due to PM2.5 concentrations are possible in areas of direct smoke impacts. Windblown dust and ash from this high wind event will also affect air quality with **Hazardous** AQI levels possible due to elevated PM10 levels.

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

- **Los Angeles County:** Southwest Coastal LA County (Area 3), South Coastal LA (Area 4), Southeast LA County (Area 5), South Central Los Angeles County (Area 12)
- **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)



- 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 <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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