



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

www.aqmd.gov

@SouthCoastAQMD    

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 05, 2020

MEDIA CONTACT:

Bradley Whitaker, (909) 396-3456, Cell: (909) 323-9516

Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431

press@aqmd.gov

South Coast AQMD Continues Smoke Advisory Due to Apple Fire North of Cherry Valley

Valid Wednesday August 05, 2020 through Thursday August 06, 2020

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

A fire named the Apple Fire is burning north of Cherry Valley in Riverside County. As of 6:40 AM on Tuesday, the burn area was over 27,300 acres with 30% containment. Current information on the Apple Fire can be found on the Incident Information System (InciWeb) at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6902/>.

Past and Current Smoke Impacts

The Apple Fire continues to produce smoke this afternoon based on satellite imagery, webcam imagery and social media posts. While smoke production has declined slightly since Tuesday, the fire has been affecting air quality in the Northern Coachella Valley and Eastern Riverside County, predominately in the overnight hours. Also, a PM2.5 monitor operated by the National Parks Service in Joshua Tree recorded **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** AQI levels Wednesday morning due to a brief increase in smoke from the fire. However, as of Wednesday afternoon it is in the **Good to Moderate** category. Brief spikes in smoke production remain possible. Low cost sensors in the area are also in the **Good to Moderate** category as of Wednesday afternoon. As of Wednesday afternoon, South Coast AQMD PM2.5 monitors in Banning and Indio have remained in the **Good to Moderate** category, illustrating that smoke impacts have been minimal west of the fire and in the Eastern Coachella Valley. Visit <https://www.aqmd.gov/aqdata> to view current air quality conditions.

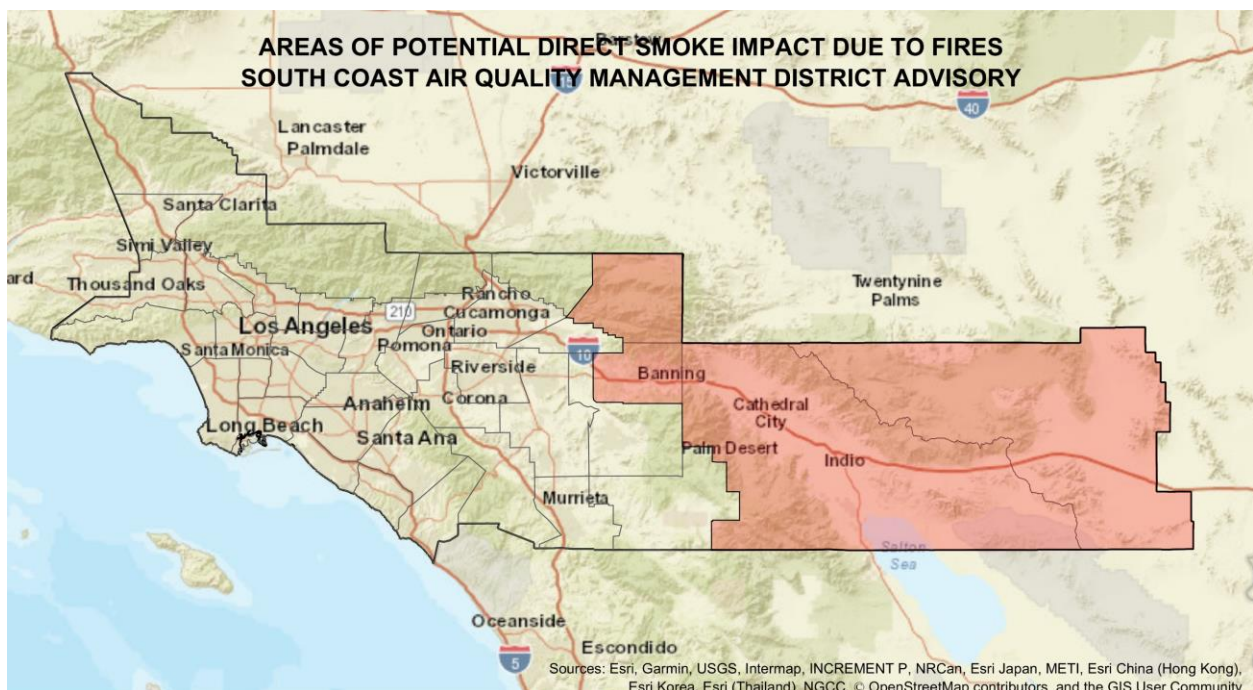
Forecasted Smoke Impacts

- San Gorgonio Pass (Area 29): most of the smoke impacts will continue to be concentrated at higher elevations near the fire. It is possible that some smoke may be transported down from the higher elevations in the overnight hours. Winds from the west in the proximity of the fire are expected to continue at least for the next several days. Therefore, significant smoke impacts are not expected west of Banning.
- East San Bernardino Mountains (Area 38): smoke impacts will continue in close proximity to the fire and towards the east. While conditions may change, significant smoke impacts are not likely in Big Bear, based on model predictions.
- Coachella Valley (Area 30): smoke impacts are expected to continue in the Northern Coachella Valley especially in the overnight hours when the plume is concentrated closer to the group. Air quality will be a strong function of how much smoke gets transported north through the Morongo Valley and Yucca Valley vs. how much smoke gets transported south into the Coachella Valley. Model predictions indicate that smoke transport to the south will be minimal.
- Impacts in Eastern Riverside County (Area 31): smoke impacts are expected to persist in this region and throughout Joshua Tree National Park.

Overall, meteorological conditions may bring smoke and ash into portions of the San Gorgonio Pass, the eastern San Bernardino Mountains, the Coachella Valley, and Eastern Riverside County. **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** or higher AQI levels are possible in areas of direct smoke impacts. Smoke production is expected to be the highest in the morning, decreasing towards noon.

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

- **Riverside County:** San Gorgonio Pass (Area 29), Coachella Valley (Area 30), East Riverside County (Area 31)
- **San Bernardino County:** East San Bernardino Mountains (Area 38)



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: <http://www.aqmd.gov/advisory>

To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories and forecasts by email, go to <http://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: <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, download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

###