



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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@SouthCoastAQMD    

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South Coast AQMD Extends Special Air Quality Advisory Due to Prescribed Burns in Ontario

Valid Thursday March 18, 2021 through Friday March 19, 2021

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

On Friday, unexploded fireworks from a fatal residential explosion on the 400 block of West Francis Street in Ontario will be burned. Prescribed burns conducted by bomb squad technicians and firefighters will begin in the morning and are expected to continue throughout the day. Prescribed burning conducted on Thursday led to smoke impacts throughout the neighborhood. Fireworks and their combustion products are known to emit high levels of particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) as well as metal air pollutants, all of which can contribute to negative health effects.

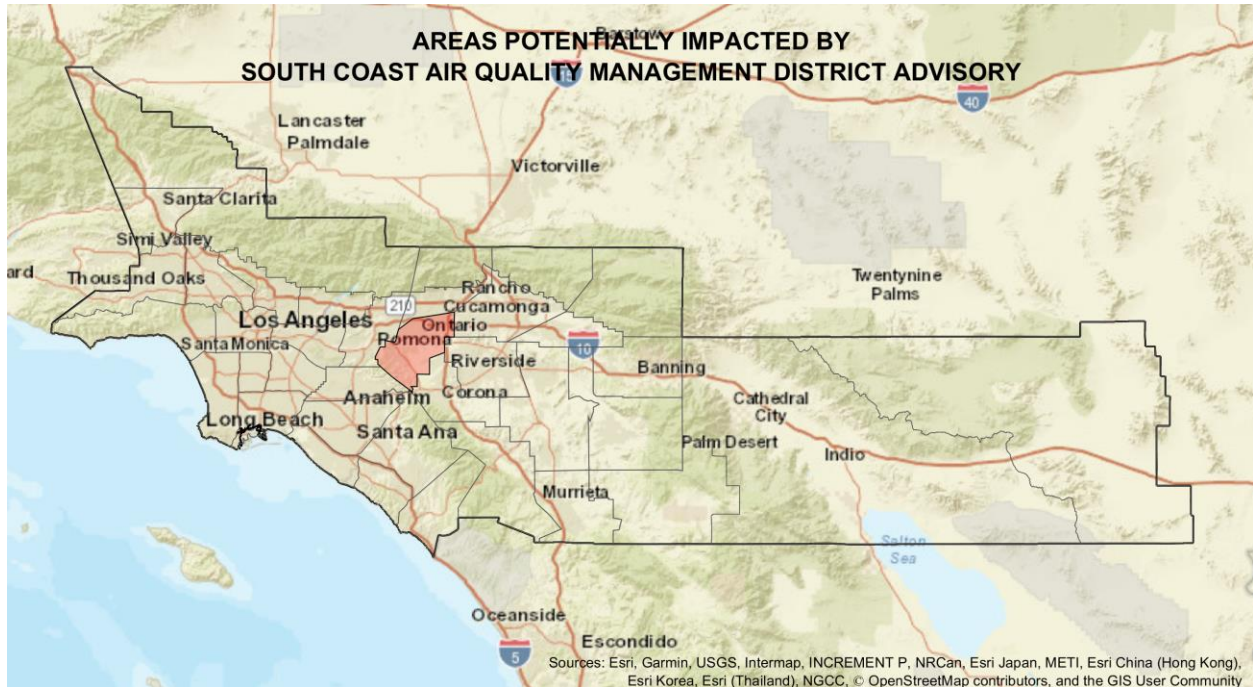
South Coast AQMD deployed two temporary PM2.5 monitors near the incident. While both monitors measured Air Quality Index (AQI) levels in the **Moderate** to **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** range during the late morning and afternoon hours on Thursday, **Very Unhealthy** AQI values were recorded during the early morning hours.

Smoke is expected throughout the day on Friday. During the early morning hours on Friday, winds from the east and south will push smoke towards the west and north. Around noon, winds are expected to shift and will push smoke towards the east of the incident. Smoke conditions may improve throughout the day as wind speeds increase and the smoke is mixed higher in the atmosphere. Neighborhoods directly downwind of the fire may experience **Unhealthy** or higher AQI levels at times on Friday.

In any area impacted by smoke: If you smell or see smoke due to a fire, limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed if you are not under evacuation orders or seeking alternate shelter, and avoiding vigorous physical activity. For more tips on protecting yourself during a fire, see South Coast AQMD's Smoke & Ash Health & Safety Tips page: <http://www.aqmd.gov/wildfire-health-info-smoke-tips>

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

- **San Bernardino County:** Southwest San Bernardino Valley (Area 33)



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

What To Do When Air Pollution Reaches Unhealthy Levels:

Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups: Air Quality Index (AQI) is 101 - 150. Although the general public is not likely to be affected at this AQI range, people with heart or lung disease, older adults and children are at a greater risk from exposure to air pollution. People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.

Unhealthy: AQI is 151 - 200. Everyone may begin to experience some adverse health effects, and members of the sensitive groups may experience more serious effects. People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.

Very Unhealthy: AQI is 201 - 300. Everyone may experience more serious health effects. People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.

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