



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 31, 2025

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## **South Coast AQMD Expands Air Quality Monitoring for Eaton and Palisades Fires**

**DIAMOND BAR**—Today, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) began air monitoring efforts in the burn scars and surrounding communities of the Eaton Fire and Palisades Fire. South Coast AQMD has been working closely with federal, state and local agencies, supporting ongoing emergency response and cleanup efforts.

Debris removal could cause hazardous dust and ash to become airborne. This initiative, requested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in close coordination with the California Air Resources Board, will assess air quality during debris removal or other activities.

South Coast AQMD's monitoring efforts will occur in two key stages.

### **Stage One: Mobile Monitoring of Air Toxics**

Two mobile monitoring vehicles will be deployed over a four-week period. Mobile monitors provide instantaneous measurements for toxic metals and volatile organic compounds (VOC's) and identify potential hot spots in areas near the Eaton and Palisades Fire zones. Results of the mobile monitoring will help identify locations for temporary air monitoring stations.

### **Stage Two: Stationary Air Monitoring**

Placement of monitoring stations will be determined based on mobile monitoring results, cleanup activity, sensitive receptors (such as residents and schools) and meteorological conditions. These stations will include air monitors that will provide data for particulate matter (PM), lead, arsenic, and asbestos in communities near the burn zones.

South Coast AQMD will continue to work closely with federal, state and local agencies as well as the local public health agencies to provide the public with air monitoring data from these efforts.

Residents are advised to avoid attempting to clean up fire debris – i.e., damaged structures, furniture, personal belongings, vehicles, vegetation, or other items that have been burned by the wildfires. The [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health](#) (LADPH) and the [Pasadena Public Health Department](#) (PPHD), issued orders prohibiting the unsafe removal, transport, and disposal of fire debris. These orders aim to safeguard public health and safety by prohibiting residents from removing debris without adequate oversight.

For additional information on South Coast AQMD efforts in response to the recent wildfires, please visit [www.aqmd.gov/lawildfires](http://www.aqmd.gov/lawildfires).

For wildfire, smoke, ash and safety tips, please visit: [www.aqmd.gov/wildfiretips](http://www.aqmd.gov/wildfiretips).

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino 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](#), [X](#) (formerly known as Twitter), and [Instagram](#).

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