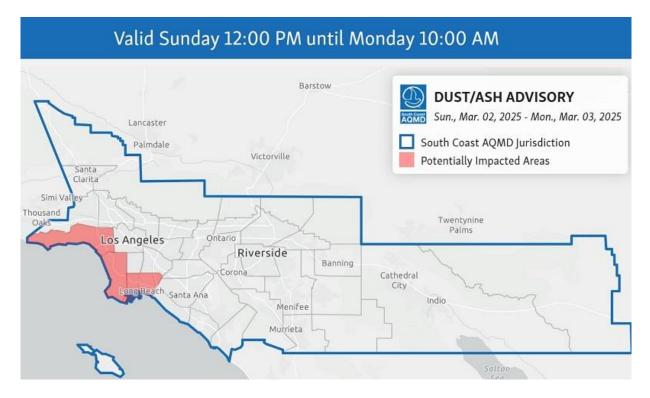


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 2, 2025 MEDIA CONTACT: Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431 Rainbow Yeung: (909) 396-3373, Cell: (909) 967-2477 press@aqmd.gov

South Coast AQMD Issues Windblown Dust and Ash Advisory

Valid until Monday 10:00 AM



Current Conditions

 The South Coast AQMD has issued a windblown dust and ash advisory due to forecasted winds in Coastal Los Angeles County and over the Palisades burn area Sunday afternoon through 10 AM Monday.

- The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a Wind Advisory for the area through 9 PM Sunday. Visit the NWS Los Angeles <u>https://www.weather.gov/lox/</u> website for more information.
- Information about Wildfire Smoke & Ash Health & Safety is available at <u>https://www.aqmd.gov/smokesafety</u>.

To view current air quality in your neighborhood, download the <u>South Coast AQMD app</u> or visit <u>www.aqmd.gov/AQImap</u>.

Forecasted Air Quality Impacts

- High winds are expected to cause windblown dust in parts of Coastal Los Angeles County and may disperse dust and ash from the Palisades impact zone.
- PM10 levels due to windblown dust may reach the **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** Air Quality Index (AQI) category or higher in parts of Costal Los Angeles County.
- Ash impacts are possible in areas immediately to the east of the Palisades burned area including Santa Monica and surrounding areas.
- Windblown ash particles may be too large to be detected by air quality instrumentation and will not influence AQI levels. However, ash particles are typically visible to the naked eye either in the air or on outdoor surfaces.
- Windblown ash from burned structures may contain higher air toxic levels. If you see windblown ash, take precautions to reduce exposure
- Visit <u>https://www.aqmd.gov/smokesafety</u> for Wildfire Smoke & Ash Health & Safety Tips

Sunday afternoon	The NWS Wind Advisory is in effect from noon through 9 PM Sunday. High winds may lead to PM10 levels in the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups category or higher in Coastal Los Angeles County. High winds may lead to unhealthful levels of windblown ash in areas immediately east of the Palisades Fire burned area.
Sunday night and Monday morning	Wind speeds and levels of windblown dust and ash are expected to decrease on Sunday night through Monday morning. Areas that are immediately east of the Palisades Fire burned area may be impacted by dust and ash.

Detailed Forecast

South Coast AQMD will issue an update if additional information becomes available.

If you are in an area impacted by windblown dust or ash:

- Limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed or seeking alternate shelter.
- Avoid vigorous physical activity.

- Run your air conditioning and/or an air purifier. If possible, do **not** use swamp coolers or whole house fans that bring in outside air.
- Help minimize dust pollution by stabilizing loose soils and slowing down if driving on dirt roads.
- Always wear proper personal protective equipment (long sleeve shirts, pants, gloves and safety glasses) when working around ash. A well-fitting respirator such as an N-95 may provide some protection. If you do get ash on your skin, wash it off as soon as possible.
- Do not use leaf blowers or take other actions (e.g., dry sweeping) that will put ash into the air. To clean up ash, use vacuums equipped with High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters.

For more information, see the EPA Guide for Particle Pollution (PDF).

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 <u>www.aqmd.gov</u>, download our award-winning app, or follow us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>X</u> (formerly known as Twitter) and <u>Instagram</u>.

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