

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 18, 2024

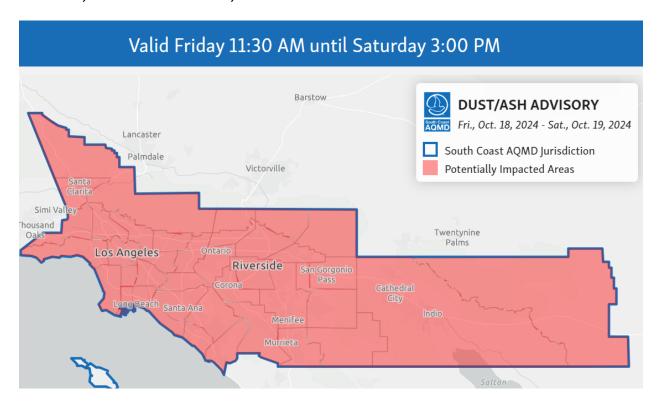
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# South Coast AQMD Issues Windblown Dust and Ash Advisory for the South Coast Air Basin

Valid Friday 11:30 AM until Saturday 3:00 PM



#### **Current Conditions**

- Satellite images show ash from the recent Bridge, Line, and Airport Wildfires blowing across the Los Angeles metro area, the Inland Empire, and Orange County.
- Satellite images show blowing dust across the Coachella Valley and eastern Riverside County.
- Elevated levels of PM10 have been measured in the Inland Empire and Coachella Valley.
- Information about Wildfire Smoke & Ash Health & Safety is available at <a href="https://www.aqmd.gov/smokesafety">https://www.aqmd.gov/smokesafety</a>.

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**

- Blowing ash and dust may impact nearly all of the South Coast Air Basin, Coachella Valley, and eastern Riverside County until the winds subside.
- The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued Red Flag Warnings for fire weather and Wind Advisories. See NWS local office websites for more information: <a href="https://www.weather.gov/sgx/">https://www.weather.gov/sgx/</a>, <a href="https://www.weather.gov/sgx/">https://www.weather.gov/lox/</a>, and <a href="https://www.weather.gov/psr/">https://www.weather.gov/lox/</a>, and <a href="https://www.weather.gov/psr/">https://www.weather.gov/lox/</a>, and <a href="https://www.weather.gov/psr/">https://www.weather.gov/lox/</a>.

#### **Detailed Forecast**

Friday	Widespread blowing ash and/or dust is expected. The Air Quality Index (AQI) due to PM10 in the blowing ash and/or dust may reach the <b>Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups</b> AQI category or higher.
Overnight Friday	Blowing ash and/or dust is expected to become more localized as high winds become less widespread. Dust in the Coachella Valley is expected to decrease overnight.
Saturday morning and daytime	Blowing dust and ash may increase again, but the extent is uncertain.

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 <a href="https://www.aqmd.gov">www.aqmd.gov</a>, download our award-winning app, or follow us on <a href="facebook">Facebook</a>, <a href="mailto:X">X</a> (formerly known as Twitter) and <a href="mailto:Instagram">Instagram</a>.