



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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South Coast AQMD Advises Residents to take Precautions as Ash Remains a Concern due to Wildfires

DIAMOND BAR – Smoke production from the Eaton and Palisades fires has significantly decreased, as confirmed by satellite imagery, webcam visuals, and local monitors. This has been reflected in the Air Quality Index (AQI), which has been good to moderate in the South Coast Air Basin on Tuesday. With Santa Ana winds in the forecast, conditions may worsen, and the public is urged to remain cautious.

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 contain air toxics. If you see windblown ash, take precautions to reduce exposure. In short, although the AQI may show green, it is best to reduce exposure as the forecasted high wind events can carry ash throughout the region from the active Palisades and Eaton wildfires as well as Hurst, Kenneth, Line, Airport, and Bridge fire burn scars.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) reminds residents to take precautions under any of the following conditions:

- If AQI is elevated
- If you see or smell smoke
- Visible ash (even if AQI is not elevated)

PROTECT YOUR LUNGS

- **Wear a mask:** A tight-fitting [mask](#) (such as a N-95 or P-100 respirator mask) can provide protection.
- **Stay Indoors:** Close windows and doors or find alternate shelter to avoid smoke and ash exposure.
- **Limit Physical Activity:** Avoid strenuous activities outdoors when smoke is present.
- **Use your HVAC:** Running your HVAC with a clean high-efficiency filter can keep smoke and ash out.
- **Create a Filtered Space:** Use a HEPA air purifier to improve indoor air quality in a room where you spend time.
- **Avoid Bringing Outside Air In:** If possible, do not use whole-house fans or swamp coolers that bring in outside air.

- **Avoid Combustion:** Refrain from using wood-burning appliances, fireplaces, or indoor combustion sources like candles and incense.

PREVENT ASH EXPOSURE

- If you get ash on your skin, in your eyes, or in your mouth, wash it off as soon as possible.
- Keep children away while you clean up ash, and do not allow children to play in ash.
- Pets should not be nearby while you clean up ash, and clean ash off pets and other animals. Keep pets away from contaminated areas.
- Wear gloves, long-sleeved shirts, long pants, shoes and socks, and goggles to avoid skin and eye contact. Contact with wet ash can cause chemical burns or skin irritation.
- Change your shoes and clothing before you leave the cleanup site to avoid tracking ash offsite, into your car, or other places.

WHEN CLEANING UP ASH

- Do not use leaf blowers.
- Lightly mist the ash with water before gently sweeping with a broom or using a wet mop. Direct ash-filled water to ground areas, avoiding storm drains.
- Collect ash in a plastic bag and dispose of it in regular trash.
- Indoors, use a vacuum with a HEPA filter. Alternatively, lightly mist with water and sweep with a broom.
- Take vehicles to a professional car wash.

ASH DISPOSAL

- Store ash in plastic bags or other containers to prevent it from being stirred up.
- If you think any waste is hazardous (including asbestos), contact your local hazardous waste authorities regarding appropriate disposal.
- Avoid washing ash into storm drains.

For more information, see South Coast AQMD's [Wildfire Smoke & Ash Health & Safety Tips](#).

For real time air quality maps, visit: www.aqmd.gov/aqimap.

For active air quality advisories, visit: www.aqmd.gov/advisory.

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, download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#) (formerly known as Twitter) and [Instagram](#).

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