

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 13, 2024

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Smoke Advisory Continues Due to Multiple Wildfires

Valid Friday 10:30 a.m. until Saturday 11:00 p.m.



Current Conditions

• The Bridge Fire is burning in the San Gabriel Mountains between Piñon Hills, Mount Baldy, La Verne, and Crystal Lake. As of 9 a.m. on Friday, the fire has burned 51,884 acres and is 3% contained. For more information about the Bridge Fire visit the InciWeb webpage at https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/caanf-bridge-fire and the Cal Fire webpage at https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2024/9/8/bridge-fire/.

- The Line Fire is burning between Highland, Running Springs, Big Bear Lake, and Angelus Oaks. As of 9 a.m. on Friday, the fire has burned 37,743 acres and is 21% contained. For more information about the Line Fire, visit the CalFire incident page at https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2024/9/5/line-fire/ and the InciWeb webpage at https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/cabdf-line-fire.
- The Airport Fire is burning in the Santa Ana Mountains between Rancho Santa Margarita, Lake Elsinore, and Modjeska Peak. As of 9 a.m. on Friday, the fire has burned 23,453 acres and is 8% contained. For more information about the Airport Fire visit the X (formerly Twitter) page for the Orange County Fire Authority at https://app.watchduty.org/i/33801.
- PM2.5 levels at Big Bear and Crestline gradually decreased during Thursday from the **Unhealthy** category and are in the **Good** Air Quality Index (AQI) category as of 8 a.m. on Friday. All other regulatory monitors in South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley measured PM2.5 concentrations in the **Good** to **Moderate** categories on Thursday into Friday morning.
- However, webcam imagery and surface measurements indicate that most of this smoke is
 higher in the atmosphere than ground level for most valleys across the South Coast Air Basin
 and Coachella Valley. Sensors in Lake Arrowhead, Yucaipa, and Idyllwild do indicate surface
 smoke with PM2.5 levels in the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups AQI category. Areas near each
 fire are smoke impacted.
- Information about Wildfire Smoke & Ash Health & Safety is available at www.aqmd.gov/smokesafety.

Conditions may change quickly due to fire activity and weather. Download the <u>South Coast AQMD</u> <u>app</u> or visit <u>www.aqmd.gov/AQImap</u> to view current air quality in your neighborhood.

Forecasted Smoke and Air Quality Impacts

- Smoke from Bridge, Line, and Airport Fires is expected to most heavily impact areas near each
 fire. Lesser, but significant impacts are expected in Coachella Valley and eastern Riverside
 County. Other areas of the South Coast Air Basin are expected to have minor or no smoke
 impacts.
- Smoke impacts in the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley will likely continue until fire activity decreases. South Coast Air Quality Management District will continue to provide daily smoke advisory updates until air quality impacts from smoke subside.
- Per South Coast AQMD Rule 444, burning wood on the beach is prohibited on Saturday September 14th from Salt Creek Beach in Orange County to the San Diego County line due to forecasted AQI values above 100.

Detailed Forecast

Friday	Smoke will most heavily impact areas near each fire where PM2.5 levels may reach Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups to Hazardous AQI category in and near the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and Santa Ana Mountains including Big Bear, Lake Arrowhead, and Yucaipa.
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Friday night and Saturday early morning	PM2.5 levels near each fire is expected to be between Unhealthy and Hazardous AQI categories including the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and Santa Ana Mountains, Corona, Running Springs, Big Bear, and Yucaipa. Smoke is expected to move through San Gorgonio Pass near Banning into the Coachella Valley with PM2.5 levels the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups AQI category or higher.
Saturday	PM2.5 levels are expected to reach the Unhealthy to Hazardous AQI categories in areas near each fire. Smoke impacts are expected to continue in Coachella Valley and eastern Riverside County. PM2.5 levels will depend on fire activity.

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

If you are in an area impacted by smoke:

- 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.
- Avoid burning wood in your fireplace or firepit and minimize sources of indoor air pollution such as candles, incense, pan-frying, and grilling.
- If you must be outside, a properly fit N95 or P100 respirator may provide some protection.

For more information, visit www.aqmd.gov/smokesafety.

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.