

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 12, 2024

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# Smoke Advisory Continues for South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley

Valid Thursday 12:00 PM until Friday 11:00 PM



### **Current Conditions**

- The Bridge Fire is burning in the San Gabriel Mountains between Piñon Hills, Mount Baldy, La
  Verne, and Crystal Lake. As of 10 AM on Thursday, the fire has burned 51,167 acres and is 0%
  contained. For more information about the Bridge Fire visit the InciWeb webpage
  at <a href="https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/caanf-bridge-fire">https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/caanf-bridge-fire</a> and the Cal Fire webpage
  at <a href="https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2024/9/8/bridge-fire/">https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2024/9/8/bridge-fire/</a>.
- The Line Fire is burning between Highland, Running Springs, Big Bear Lake, and Angelus Oaks. As of 10 AM on Thursday, the fire has burned 37,207 acres and is 18% contained. For more information about the Line Fire, visit the CalFire incident page

- at <a href="https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2024/9/5/line-fire/">https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2024/9/5/line-fire/</a> and the InciWeb webpage at <a href="https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/cabdf-line-fire">https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/cabdf-line-fire</a>.
- The Airport Fire is burning in the Santa Ana Mountains between Rancho Santa Margarita, Lake Elsinore, and Modjeska Peak. As of 10 AM on Thursday, the fire has burned 23,412 acres and is 5% contained. For more information about the Airport Fire visit Watch Duty at https://app.watchduty.org/i/33801.
- The regulatory monitor at Big Bear measured PM2.5 levels well above the threshold for the Hazardous AQI category between 11 AM to 9 PM on Wednesday. Overnight the PM2.5 levels at Big Bear briefly subsided into the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups AQI category before increasing again into the Unhealthy AQI category.
- On Thursday, regulatory monitors in Coachella Valley and Crestline reached the **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** and **Unhealthy** AQI categories, respectively.
- As of 10 AM on Thursday, satellite imagery shows substantial smoke from the Bridge and Line fires
  over the San Gabriel Mountains, the San Bernardino Mountains, their foothills, San Gorgonio Pass
  near Banning, Coachella Valley, and eastern Riverside County. Cloud cover partially blocks the
  view of the area around the Airport Fire, however, webcam imagery indicates smoke impacts.
- Information about Wildfire Smoke & Ash Health & Safety is available at <u>www.aqmd.gov/smokesafety</u>.

Conditions may change quickly due to fire activity and weather. Download the <u>South Coast AQMD 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 mostly impact inland areas and PM2.5 levels are expected to be between **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** and **Hazardous**. The worst impacts will be near each fire. Coastal Orange County and most of western Los Angeles County are expected to have more minor 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.

#### **Detailed Forecast**

Thursday	Smoke impacts near the fires are expected to be between <b>Unhealthy</b> and <b>Hazardous</b> AQI categories; this includes eastern San Gabriel Mountains, San Bernardino Mountains, Big Bear Lake, Santa Ana Mountains, Rancho Santa Margarita, and Corona. Smoke impacts in Coachella Valley are expected to increase and PM2.5 levels may reach the <b>Unhealthy</b> AQI category or higher by late afternoon. Conditions within the Inland Empire are expected to vary widely with areas near Corona, Yucaipa and Redlands having the most impacts. Little to no smoke impacts are expected in coastal areas.
Thursday night and Friday early morning	PM2.5 levels near each fire is expected to be between <b>Unhealthy</b> and <b>Hazardous</b> AQI categories. Conditions at Big Bear are expected to improve overnight. Smoke impacts in Coachella Valley and southeast of Hemet are expected to increase and may reach the Unhealthy AQI category or higher. Smoke throughout the South Coast Air Basin is expected to increase overnight, and smoke may reach the Los Angeles County coastline and the Santa Monica

	Mountains by morning with <b>Moderate</b> to <b>Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups</b> being the most likely AQI categories for most areas.
Friday	Smoke is likely to impact most of the South Coast Air Basin on Friday with the most significant impacts near and to the northeast of each fire including the San Gabriel Mountains, San Bernardino Mountains, Big Bear, Santa Ana Mountains, Corona, and Lake Elsinore where PM2.5 levels may reach <b>Unhealthy</b> to <b>Hazardous</b> AQI levels. Big Bear may have a break from the smoke (or have less smoke) from 5 AM to 10 AM. Coachella Valley may reach the <b>Unhealthy</b> AQI category or higher. Los Angeles, Long Beach, and El Monte are expected to have lesser impacts but may still reach the <b>Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups</b> . 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 <a href="https://www.aqmd.gov/smokesafety">www.aqmd.gov/smokesafety</a>.

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>.