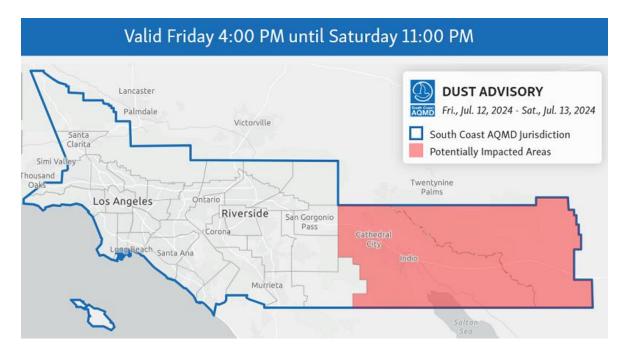


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 12, 2024 MEDIA CONTACT: Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431 Connie Villanueva (909) 396-2409, Cell: (909) 215-5601 press@aqmd.gov

South Coast AQMD Issues a Windblown Dust Advisory for the Coachella Valley and East Riverside County

Valid Friday 4:00 PM until Saturday 11:00 PM



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

Current Conditions

• In the past 24 hours, Air Quality Index (AQI) levels reached **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** in Indio and Mecca due to windblown dust caused by winds from the southeast.

Forecasted Air Quality Impacts

• Windblown dust is expected to cause AQI values to reach **Unhealthy** or higher between Friday evening and Saturday night in the Coachella Valley and Eastern Riverside County.

- High winds can lead to windblown dust; gusts up to 32 miles per hour are expected.
- AQI levels will vary over time and by location depending on wind speed and direction.
- AQI levels will likely be highest at night; air quality is expected to be worse in the central and Eastern Coachella Valley than other areas.
- Air quality may also be affected by the Bluff fire near Banning.
- South Coast AQMD will issue an update if poor air quality is expected to persist.

Detailed Forecast

Friday and Saturday evenings and nights	AQI may reach Unhealthy or higher. Winds on Saturday evening will be stronger than Friday and will likely cause more dust.
Saturday daytime	Air quality might improve slightly due to reduced wind speeds.

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.

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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