

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 15, 2024

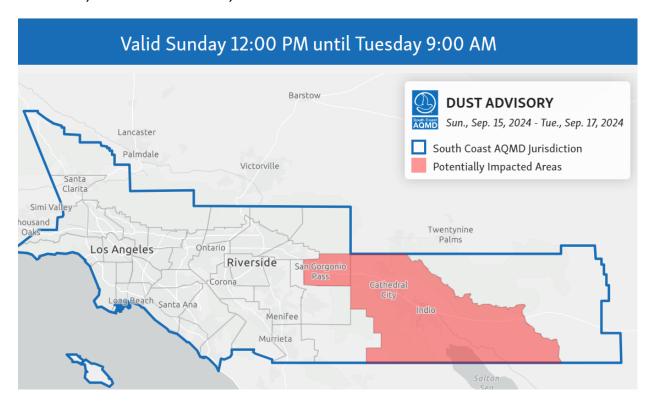
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South Coast AQMD Issues Windblown Dust Advisory for the Coachella Valley and Banning Pass

Valid Sunday 12:00 PM until Tuesday 9:00 AM



Current Conditions

• Air Quality Index (AQI) levels at Palm Springs, Indio, and Mecca have been Good to Moderate from Saturday afternoon to Sunday morning.

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

- High winds can lead to windblown dust; gusts up to 31 miles per hour are expected in Banning Pass.
- Windblown dust will add to the current smoke pollution and is expected to cause Air Quality Index (AQI) values to reach **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** or worse in the Coachella Valley and Banning pass between Sunday afternoon and Tuesday morning.
- AQI levels will vary over time and by location depending on wind speed and direction.
- AQI levels from dust will likely be highest at night.

Detailed Forecast

Sunday afternoon through Tuesday morning

Persistent high winds are forecasted in the Coachella Valley and Banning Pass from 3 PM Sunday through 9 AM Tuesday. Strong wind gusts and elevated levels of windblown dust are expected, which may lead to Air Quality Index (AQI) levels reaching **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** or higher during this period.

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 www.aqmd.gov, download our award-winning app, or follow us on Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter) and Instagram.