

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 16, 2024

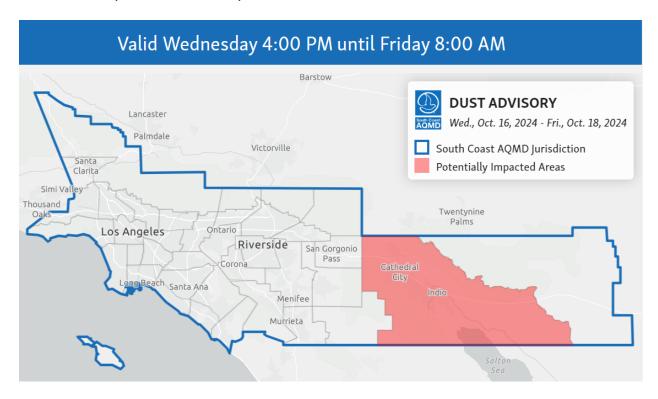
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South Coast AQMD Issues Windblown Dust Advisory for the Coachella Valley

Valid Wednesday 4:00 PM until Friday 8:00 AM



Current Conditions

 Air Quality Index (AQI) levels at Whitewater Wash area, Palm Springs and Indio have been Good to Moderate from Tuesday afternoon to Wednesday afternoon.

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 53 miles per hour are expected in the Western Coachella Valley.
- Windblown dust is expected to cause AQI values to reach **Unhealthy** or worse in the Coachella Valley on Wednesday and Thursday nights.
- AQI levels will vary over time and by location depending on wind speed and direction.

Detailed Forecast

Wednesday nighttime	Persistent high winds are forecasted in the Coachella Valley from 8 PM Wednesday through 6 AM Thursday. Strong wind gusts and elevated levels of windblown dust are expected, which may lead to AQI levels reaching Unhealthy or higher during this period.
Thursday daytime	AQI levels may improve to Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or better as winds die down.
Thursday nighttime	High winds are forecasted in the Coachella Valley from 8 PM Thursday through 6 AM Friday. AQI levels may reach Unhealthy or higher due to strong winds 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 lnstagram.