

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 9, 2024

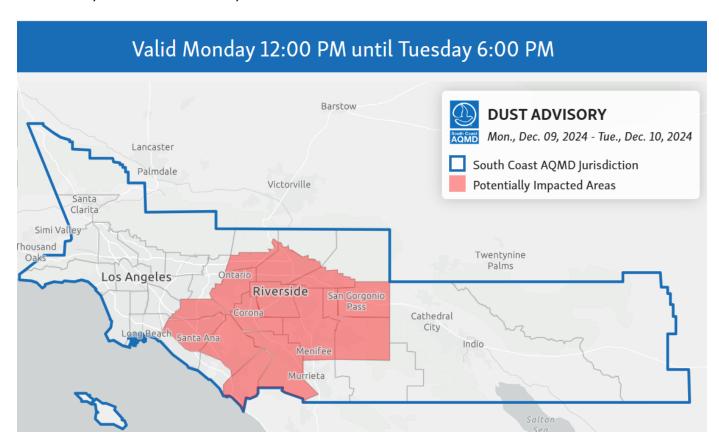
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South Coast AQMD Issues Windblown Dust Advisory Due to High Winds in the San Gorgonio Pass and Parts of Riverside and Orange Counties

Valid Monday 12:00 PM until Tuesday 6:00 PM



Current Conditions

 As of Monday at noon, the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Warnings throughout the area. Visit the NWS San Diego <u>www.weather.gov/sgx</u> and NWS Los Angeles <u>www.weather.gov/lox</u> websites for more information. 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

- Blowing dust may result in Air Quality Index (AQI) levels that are **Unhealthy** or worse.
- High PM10 levels in the region are a result of gusty Santa Ana winds, which can lift dust and soil into the air.
- The highest PM10 levels are expected in the Riverside area.
- High winds may also disperse ash from the Line, Airport, and Bridge fire burn scars.
- Air quality can vary by hour and location depending on wind conditions.

Detailed Forecast

Monday daytime	High PM10 levels are expected to begin when gusty winds from the northeast start to affect the area on Monday afternoon. Unhealthy or worse AQI levels due to PM10 are possible in the San Gorgonio Pass area, Inland Empire, and inland areas of Orange County.
Monday nighttime	Slightly lower wind speeds are expected overnight Monday. Wind gusts will continue to result in blowing dust with Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or worse AQI levels expected overnight in the area.
Tuesday morning and afternoon	High wind speeds are again expected on Tuesday morning and afternoon, with PM10 levels in the Unhealthy or worse AQI category expected. Wind speeds and PM10 levels are expected to decrease throughout the region starting at 5 PM Tuesday.

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.
- Always wear proper personal protective equipment (long sleeve shirts, pants, gloves and safety glasses) when working around ash. A well-fitting respirator such as an N-95 may provide some protection. If you do get ash on your skin, wash it off as soon as possible.
- Do not use leaf blowers or take other actions (e.g., dry sweeping) that will put ash into the air. To clean up ash, use vacuums equipped with High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters.

For more information, see the <u>EPA Guide for Particle Pollution</u> (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

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