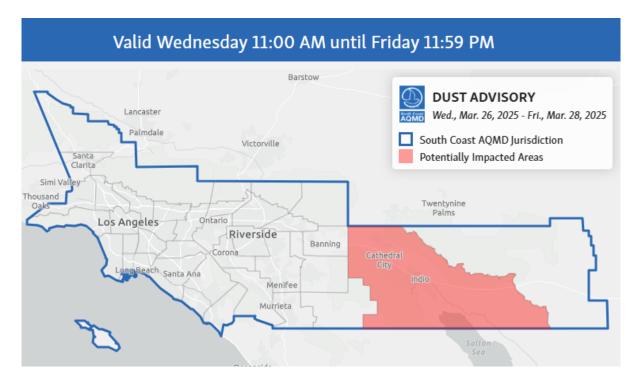


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 26, 2025 MEDIA CONTACT: Nahal Mogharabi: (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431 Rainbow Yeung: (909) 396-3373, Cell: (909) 967-2477 press@aqmd.gov

South Coast AQMD Extends Windblown Dust Advisory for Coachella Valley

Valid until Friday 11:59 PM



Current Conditions

- As of 10 AM Wednesday, gusts up to 25 mph were recorded in the Coachella Valley.
- Since 5 AM Wednesday, the Air Quality Index (AQI) increased to **Hazardous** in Whitewater Wash, and to **Unhealthy** in Indio and Mecca on account of windblown dust (PM10).

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 PM10 levels in the **Unhealthy** or higher Air Quality Index (AQI) categories in the Coachella Valley. Expect elevated PM10 levels at times through late Friday night, especially in the northwestern part of the valley
- Gusty winds can lift dust and soil into the air, resulting in high PM10 levels in the region
- Winds from the west and northwest with gusts up to 55 mph are predicted
- Air quality can vary by hour and location depending on wind conditions

Detailed Forecast

Wednesday daytime	PM10 levels are predicted to range from Moderate to Unhealthy or higher AQI categories at times throughout the Coachella Valley.
Wednesday night	PM10 levels are predicted to range from Good to Unhealthy or higher AQI categories in the northwestern Coachella Valley. Air quality will improve slightly in other areas after dark.
Thursday and Friday daytime	After briefly declining Thursday morning, winds will regain strength in the afternoon. Winds will be strong all day on Friday. AQIs are expected to vary between Good and Unhealthy or worse both days.
Thursday and Friday nights	Wind speeds will drop slightly each night but remain strong enough to cause air quality to range from Good to Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or worse.

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 <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 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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