

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 19, 2025

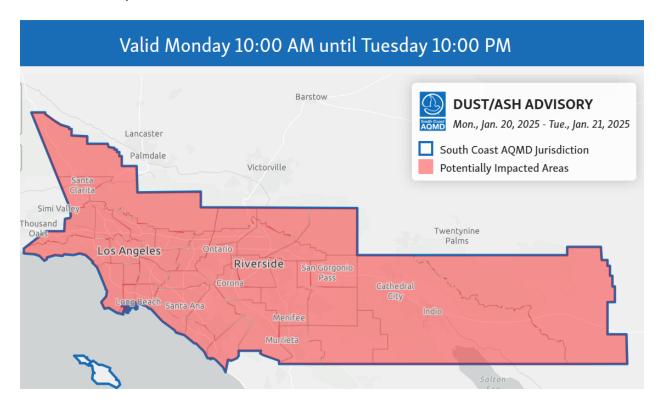
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South Coast AQMD Issues Windblown Dust and Ash Advisory

Valid until Tuesday 10:00 PM



Current Conditions

• The South Coast AQMD has issued a windblown dust and ash advisory due to strong Santa Ana winds expected throughout the region Monday morning through Tuesday evening. The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued Red Flag Warnings, High Wind Warnings, and Wind Advisories for much of the area. Visit the NWS Los Angeles www.weather.gov/lox, NWS San Diego www.weather.gov/sgx, and NWS Phoenix www.weather.gov/psr 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

Windblown Ash

- High winds may disperse ash from the Palisades and Eaton impact zones. Winds may also disperse ash from the Hurst, Kenneth, Line, Airport, and Bridge fire burn scars
- Ash impacts are possible in all areas to the south and west of these burned areas
- Windblown ash particles may be too large to be detected by air quality instrumentation and will
 not influence Air Quality Index (AQI) levels. However, ash particles are typically visible to the
 naked eye either in the air or on outdoor surfaces
- Windblown ash from burned structures may contain higher air toxic levels. If you see windblown ash, take precautions to reduce exposure

Windblown Dust

- Blowing dust may result in AQI levels that are Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or worse in portions of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties in the South Coast Air Basin, the Coachella Valley, and eastern Riverside County
- High PM10 levels in the region may result from gusty Santa Ana winds, which can lift dust and soil into the air
- Wind speeds and PM10 levels are expected to be highest Monday afternoon through Tuesday morning
- Air quality can vary by hour and location depending on wind conditions

Detailed Forecast

Monday	Winds are expected to increase as the day progresses leading to unhealthful levels of windblown ash and dust. The most significant impacts are expected to be in Los Angeles County in areas south and west of recent and current burn areas.
Overnight Monday and Tuesday morning	High winds will likely lead to unhealthful levels of windblown ash and dust. Areas of Los Angeles County that are south and west of recent and current burn areas are expected to be impacted by ash. The Inland Empire, San Bernardino Mountains, and Orange County may have impacts from both dust and ash from the Airport, Bridge, and Line Fires that burned in September 2024. The Coachella Valley and eastern Riverside County may have blowing dust.
Tuesday	Winds are expected to decrease gradually leading to gradual improvements in windblown ash and dust levels. The most significant impacts are expected to be in Los Angeles County in areas south and west of recent and current burn areas.

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 **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.