South Coast AQMD Continues Windblown Dust and Ash Advisory for Portions of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

Valid: Monday, October 26, through Tuesday, October 27, 2020

This advisory is in effect through Tuesday evening. South Coast AQMD will issue an update if additional information becomes available.

A Windblown Dust and Ash Advisory is in effect for Monday, October 26, 2020 through the evening of Tuesday, October 27, 2020. As of Monday morning, winds were from the north and northeast and wind gusts were between 40 – 65 mph, with isolated wind gusts over 80 mph. As a result, the Air Quality Index (AQI) due to particulate matter, or PM10, has reached **Unhealthy** to **Hazardous** levels in Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, including in the Coachella Valley. Windblown ash is being produced from recent wildfire burn areas, such as the Bobcat and Ranch2 burn areas in the San Gabriel Mountains and the El Dorado burn area in the San Bernardino Mountains. Dust is also being generated from high winds blowing over dry soil and sand throughout the region. Some dust and ash are small enough to be considered fine particulate matter (PM2.5), which is leading to elevated levels throughout the region as well.

Strong winds from the north and northeast lasting through Tuesday evening with gusts up to 60 – 75 mph are predicted by the National Weather Service (NWS). Areas of blowing sand, dust, and ash are predicted throughout this wind event, which may result in **Hazardous** AQI levels at times for portions of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties.

The NWS has posted High Wind Warnings, Red Flag Warnings, and Wind Advisories for portions of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. NWS High Wind Warnings expire at 2:00 PM on Tuesday while Red Flag Warnings expire at 6:00 PM on Tuesday. NWS Wind Advisories for the San Gorgonio Pass and the Coachella Valley expire at 5:00 PM on Monday, while Wind Advisories for the Los Angeles County Coastal areas including Downtown Los Angeles expire at 12:00 PM on Tuesday. For

information regarding the NWS warnings and advisories, please visit the NWS San Diego (https://www.weather.gov/sgx/) and Los Angeles/Oxnard (https://www.weather.gov/lox) websites.

In areas directly impacted by windblown dust and/or ash: Limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed and avoiding vigorous physical activity.

Overall, PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations are expected to be elevated at times in portions of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties due to the Santa Ana wind event. Air quality may reach **Hazardous** levels in areas directly impacted by dust.

In areas directly impacted by windblown dust: Limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed and avoiding vigorous physical activity.

- South Coast AQMD Advisory updates can be found at the following link: www.aqmd.gov/advisory
- To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories and forecasts by email, go to www.AirAlerts.org
- To view current air quality conditions by region in an interactive map, see http://www.aqmd.gov/aqimap
- For real-time air quality information, maps, notifications and health alerts in your area, download our award-winning South Coast AQMD app at: www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp
- Air quality forecasts are available at http://www.aqmd.gov/forecast
- For a map of South Coast AQMD Forecast Areas, see http://www.aqmd.gov/ForecastAreas.

South Coast AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside 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, Twitter and Instagram.

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