



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** December 4, 2020

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## **South Coast AQMD Continues Smoke Advisory Due to Bond and Airport Wildfires**

**Valid: Friday, December 4, 2020 through Saturday, December 5, 2020**

*This advisory is in effect through Saturday afternoon. South Coast AQMD will issue an update if additional information becomes available.*

Two major local wildfires are affecting air quality in the region. A wildfire named the Bond Fire is burning in the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains north of Foothill Ranch in Orange County. As of 9:00 a.m. on Friday, the burn area was reported at 6,400 acres with 10% containment. Current information on the Bond Fire can be found on the Orange County Fire Authority's Twitter handle at [https://twitter.com/OCFA\\_PIO](https://twitter.com/OCFA_PIO).

A wildfire named the Airport Fire is also burning in Corona near the Corona Municipal Airport northeast of the intersection of the 91 and 71 freeways. As of 9:30 AM on Friday, the burn area was reported at 750 acres with 15% containment. Current information on the Airport Fire can be found on CAL FIRE's website at <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/12/1/airport-fire/>.

### **Past and Current Smoke and Ash Impacts**

Both the Bond and Airport Fires are producing light smoke on Friday morning based on webcam imagery and air quality measurements. Since Thursday afternoon, **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** to **Unhealthy** Air Quality Index (AQI) levels were recorded throughout Orange County and portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties due to the Airport and Bond Fires based on measurements at regulatory air quality monitors and low-cost sensors. Visit <https://www.aqmd.gov/aqdata> to view current air quality conditions.

**In any area impacted by smoke:** If you smell smoke or see ash due to a wildfire, limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed or seeking alternate shelter, and avoiding vigorous physical activity. For more tips on protecting yourself during a wildfire, see South Coast AQMD's Wildfire Smoke & Ash Health & Safety Tips page: <http://www.aqmd.gov/wildfire-health-info-smoke-tips>

## Forecasted Smoke and Ash Impacts

Areas downwind of the Bond and Airport Fires will experience the highest AQI levels due to smoke impacts. Smoke and ash impacts will be highly variable in both timing and location through Saturday.

- **Friday afternoon:** Winds near the Bond and Airport Fires will be from the west and north on Friday, moving smoke to the east and south into portions of Northern Orange County (Anaheim, Seal Beach), Central Orange County (Irvine, Newport Beach), Southern Orange County (Mission Viejo, San Clemente), Corona, Temescal Valley, and Riverside.
- **Overnight Friday through Saturday morning:** Winds will shift to come from the east and southeast Friday evening through Saturday morning near the Bond and Airport Fires. Areas west and northwest of the Bond and Airport Fires, as well as areas in direct proximity to the fires, will likely see the highest particulate matter levels overnight as smoke is likely to remain closer to the ground. Smoke impacts will be heavily dependent on the progress of fire containment efforts Friday afternoon and evening.
- **Saturday afternoon:** Winds are predicted to be from the west and southwest on Saturday, which will push smoke towards the east and northeast towards Northern Orange County and portions of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

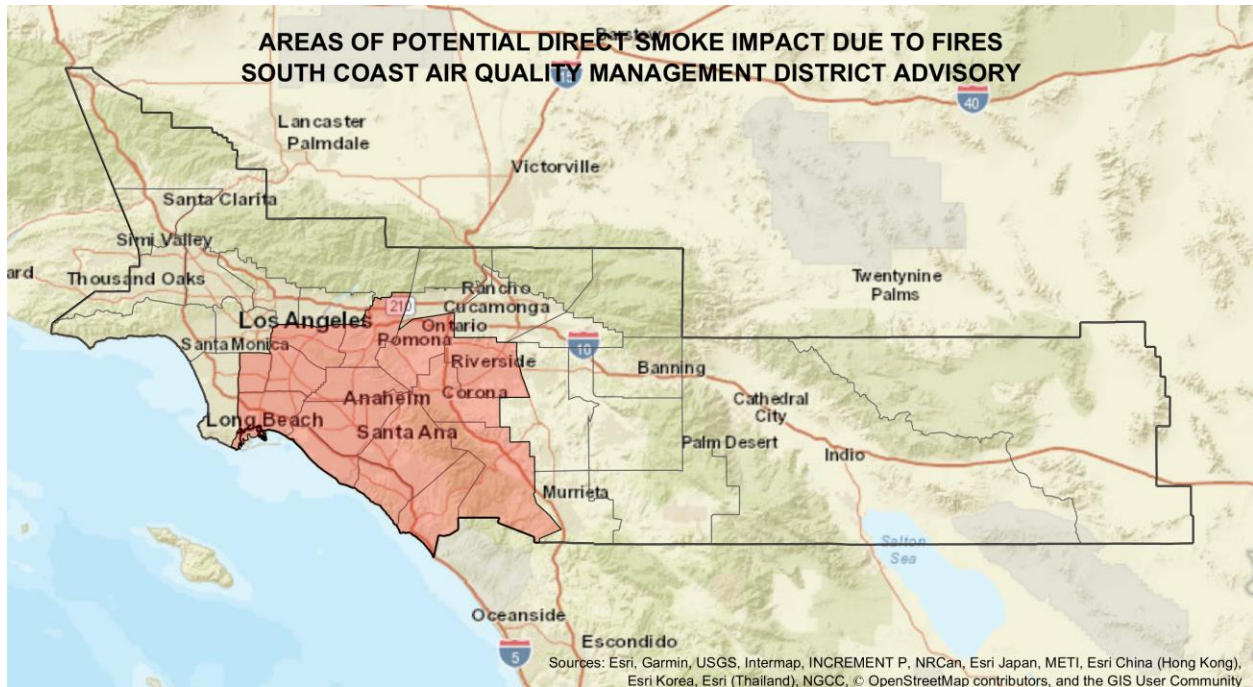
**Extended Smoke Outlook:** The National Weather Service has a Red Flag Warning in effect until 10 PM on Saturday that includes the fire areas due to high winds and low humidity. See [www.weather.gov/sgx](http://www.weather.gov/sgx) and [www.weather.gov/lox](http://www.weather.gov/lox) for details. The South Coast Air Quality Management District will continue to provide daily smoke advisory updates until air quality impacts from smoke subside.

Overall, meteorological conditions will bring smoke and ash into portions of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties with localized impacts near the Airport and Bond Fires.

**Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** or higher AQI levels due to PM2.5 concentrations are possible in areas of direct smoke impacts.

Areas of direct impacts and poor air quality may include portions of:

- **Los Angeles County:** South Coastal LA (Area 4), Southeast LA County (Area 5), Pomona-Walnut Valley (Area 10), South San Gabriel Valley (Area 11), South Central Los Angeles County (Area 12)
- **Orange County:** Northern Orange County (Area 16), Central Orange County (Area 17), North Coastal Orange County (Area 18), Saddleback Valley (Area 19), Central Coastal Orange County (Area 20), Capistrano Valley (Area 21)
- **Riverside County:** Corona-Norco (Area 22), Metropolitan Riverside County (Area 23), Lake Elsinore (Area 25)
- **San Bernardino County:** Southwest San Bernardino Valley (Area 33)



- South Coast AQMD Advisory updates can be found at the following link: [www.aqmd.gov/advisory](http://www.aqmd.gov/advisory)
- To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories and forecasts by email, go to [www.AirAlerts.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.aqmd.gov), download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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