



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Bradley Whitaker, (909) 396-3456, Cell: (909) 323-9516

Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431

[press@aqmd.gov](mailto:press@aqmd.gov)

## **South Coast AQMD Issues Smoke Advisory Due to Snow Fire Near Cabazon and Whitewater**

***Valid: Thursday, September 17, 2020 through Friday, September 18, 2020***

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

A wildfire named the Snow Fire started on Thursday afternoon and is burning between Cabazon and Whitewater in the San Jacinto Wilderness. As of 6:30 PM on Thursday, the burn area was approximately 600 acres with a rapid rate of spread. Current information on the Snow Fire can be found on the Riverside County Fire Department's website at [https://www.rvcfire.org/\\_Layouts/Incident%20Information/IncidentInfoDetail.aspx?4567](https://www.rvcfire.org/_Layouts/Incident%20Information/IncidentInfoDetail.aspx?4567).

### **Current Smoke Impacts**

The Snow Fire is producing heavy smoke on Thursday evening based on satellite and webcam imagery as well as social media posts. Fire activity is currently generating a smoke plume that is moving towards the east and southeast towards Palm Springs. Currently PM2.5 levels remain in the **Moderate** Air Quality Index (AQI) levels at South Coast AQMD's monitors and low-cost sensors in areas near the fire. 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 Impacts**

Areas in direct proximity to the Snow Fire will experience the highest AQI levels due to smoke impacts.

- **Thursday evening through Friday morning:** Winds are predicted to be from the west. This will bring smoke to the east into the San Gorgonio Pass and Coachella Valley. Elevated ground level

concentrations of PM2.5 are expected overnight as smoke is likely to remain closer to the ground.

- **Friday afternoon:** Winds near the Snow Fire will transition to come from west/southwest starting around mid-day and will likely move smoke to the east/northeast into the Coachella Valley and out of the South Coast Air Basin.

Overall, meteorological conditions may bring smoke and ash into portions of Riverside County and the Coachella Valley. **Unhealthy** 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:

- **Riverside County:** San Geronio Pass (Area 29), Coachella Valley (Area 30)



- 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 South Coast AQMD Daily Rule 403.1 High Wind Forecasts for the Coachella Valley call (909) 396-2399 or 1-800-CUT-SMOG
- 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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