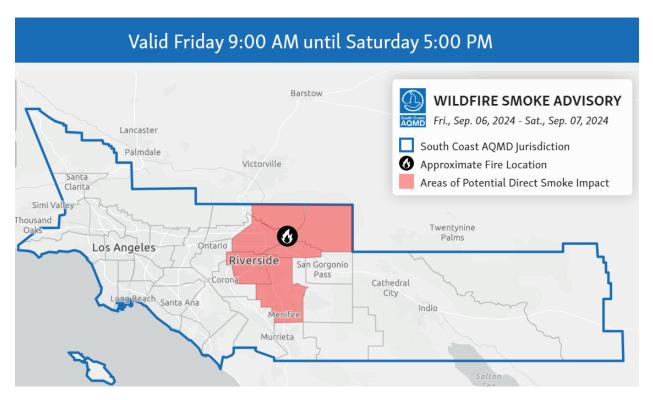


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 6, 2024 MEDIA CONTACT: Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431 Kim White (909) 396-3456, Cell: (909) 323-9479 press@aqmd.gov

South Coast AQMD issues Smoke Advisory due to Line Fire near Highland

Valid Friday 9:00 AM until Saturday 5:00 PM



Current Conditions

- The Line Fire is burning east of Highland. As of 8 AM on Friday, the fire has burned 505 acres and is 0% contained.
- Sensors in Highland measured PM2.5 levels in the **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** to the **Very Unhealthy** Air Quality Index (AQI) category from 11 PM Thursday to 8 AM Friday.
- A regulatory monitor in San Bernardino measured PM2.5 levels in the **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** AQI category from 3 AM Thursday to 8 AM Friday.
- Based on camera imagery, at 8 AM Friday winds were pushing smoke from the fire to the west towards Highland and San Bernardino.

• For more information about the Line Fire visit the CalFire incident page at https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2024/9/5/line-fire/.

Conditions may change quickly due to fire activity and weather. Download <u>https://www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp</u> or visit <u>www.aqmd.gov/AQImap</u> to view current air quality in your neighborhood.

Forecasted Smoke and Air Quality Impacts

- Smoke from the fire may cause PM2.5 levels to reach the **Very Unhealthy** AQI category at times on Friday and Saturday in areas near the fire including Highland.
- Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or higher AQI categories are predicted at times on Friday and Saturday in parts of San Bernardino County, including the cities of San Bernardino, Redlands, Mentone, Rialto, Running Springs, Big Bear Lake, and surrounding areas.
- Overall, smoke impacts are predicted in parts of San Bernardino and Riverside counties on Friday and Saturday.
- AQI levels may reach the Very Unhealthy category in the afternoon on Friday and Saturday in large parts of the South Coast Air Basin from high levels of ozone (smog) due to the ongoing heat wave.

Detailed Forecast

Friday morning and afternoon	Winds will push smoke to the west towards San Bernardino until noon on Friday. AQI may reach Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or higher in areas west of the fire including San Bernardino and Rialto. After noon on Friday, winds will push smoke towards the northeast. AQI may reach Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or higher in Running Springs, Big Bear Lake, and surrounding areas. AQI may continue to reach Very Unhealthy or higher in areas immediately adjacent to the fire including Highland.
Friday night and Saturday morning	Light and variable winds may lead to increased PM2.5 levels in areas immediately adjacent to the fire including Highland. AQI may reach Very Unhealthy levels.
Saturday afternoon and evening	Light and variable winds may lead to increased PM2.5 levels in areas surrounding the fire including Highland, Mentone, San Bernardino, Redlands, and Running Springs. AQI may again reach Very Unhealthy levels.

South Coast AQMD will issue an update if additional information becomes available.

If you are in an area impacted by smoke:

- 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.
- Avoid burning wood in your fireplace or firepit and minimize sources of indoor air pollution such as candles, incense, pan-frying, and grilling.
- If you must be outside, a properly fit N95 or P100 respirator may provide some protection.

For more information, visit <u>www.aqmd.gov/smokesafety</u>.

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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