

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 19, 2024

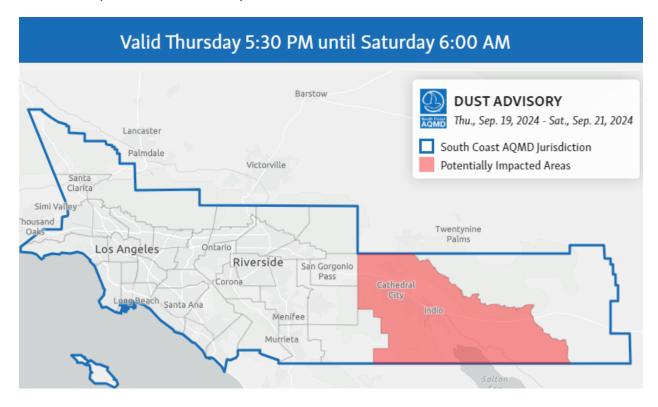
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South Coast AQMD Issues a Windblown Dust Advisory for the Coachella Valley

Valid Thursday 5:30 PM until Saturday 6:00 AM



Current Conditions

• Air Quality Index (AQI) levels at Palm Springs, Indio, and Mecca have been **Good** to **Moderate** from Wednesday afternoon to Thursday afternoon.

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

- High winds can lead to windblown dust; gusts up to 30 miles per hour are expected in the Coachella Valley.
- Windblown dust is expected to cause Air Quality Index (AQI) values to reach Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or worse in the Coachella Valley on Thursday and Friday nights.
- AQI levels will vary over time and by location depending on wind speed and direction.

Detailed Forecast

Thursday nighttime	Persistent high winds are forecasted in the Coachella Valley from 8 PM Thursday through 8 AM Friday. Strong wind gusts and elevated levels of windblown dust are expected, which may lead to Air Quality Index (AQI) levels reaching the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or higher during this period.
Friday daytime	AQI levels may improve to Moderate or better as winds die down.
Friday nighttime	High winds are forecasted in the Coachella Valley from 8 PM Friday through 5 AM Saturday. Air Quality Index (AQI) levels may reach Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or higher due to strong winds during this period.

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

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.

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 Instagram.