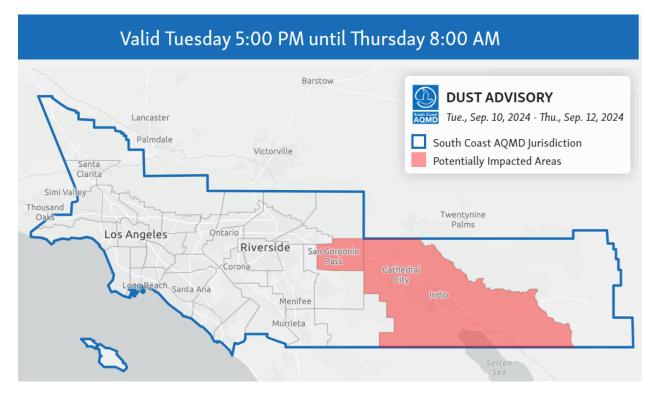


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 10, 2024 MEDIA CONTACT: Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431 Connie Villanueva (909) 396-2409, Cell: (909) 215-5601 press@aqmd.gov

South Coast AQMD Issues Windblown Dust Advisory for the Coachella Valley and San Gorgonio Pass

Valid Tuesday 5:00 PM until Thursday 8:00 AM



To view current air quality in your neighborhood, download the <u>South Coast AQMD app</u> or visit <u>www.aqmd.gov/AQImap</u>.

Current Conditions

• Air Quality Index (AQI) levels at Palm Springs and Indio have been **Moderate** to **Unhealthy** due to fine particle pollution from wildfire smoke and windblown dust to a lesser extent.

Forecasted Air Quality Impacts

- High winds can lead to windblown dust; gusts up to 40 miles per hour are expected in Banning Pass.
- Windblown dust will add to the current smoke pollution and is expected to cause Air Quality Index (AQI) values to reach **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** or worse in the Coachella Valley and Banning pass between Tuesday evening and Thursday morning.
- AQI levels will vary over time and by location depending on wind speed and direction.
- AQI levels from dust will likely be highest at night.

Detailed Forecast

Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and nights	Wind gusts and windblown dust levels are predicted to be highest during Tuesday and Wednesday evening and night, from 5 PM each evening through 2 AM the following morning. AQI may reach Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or higher.
Wednesday daytime	AQI from dust is predicted to be lower during the day on Wednesday due to reduced wind speeds. However overall AQI levels may still reach Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or higher due to smoke from multiple wildfires.

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 <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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