



# 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 Continues Smoke Advisory Due to Apple Fire North of Cherry Valley**

**Valid Sunday August 02, 2020 through Monday August 03, 2020**

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

A fire named the Apple Fire is burning north of Cherry Valley in Riverside County. As of 4:00 PM on Sunday, the burn area was over 20,516 acres with 0% containment. Current information on the Apple Fire can be found on the Incident Information System (InciWeb) at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6902/>.

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

The Apple Fire is producing an extensive plume of visible smoke this afternoon based on satellite imagery, webcam imagery and social media posts. Since the start of the fire on Friday afternoon, most of the smoke has either remained well above the surface or has been transported to the northeast through the Morongo Valley and Yucca Valley. Therefore, PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations at the South Coast AQMD's monitors in Banning and Indio are still within the **Good** to **Moderate** Air Quality Index (AQI) levels as of Saturday afternoon. While AQI levels measured at a low-cost sensor in the Northern Coachella Valley is also within the **Good** to **Moderate** category, this sensor reached **Unhealthy** levels early Sunday morning. Note that localized AQI levels closer to the smoke plume may be higher. Visit <https://www.aqmd.gov/aqdata> to view current air quality conditions.

### **Forecasted Smoke Impacts**

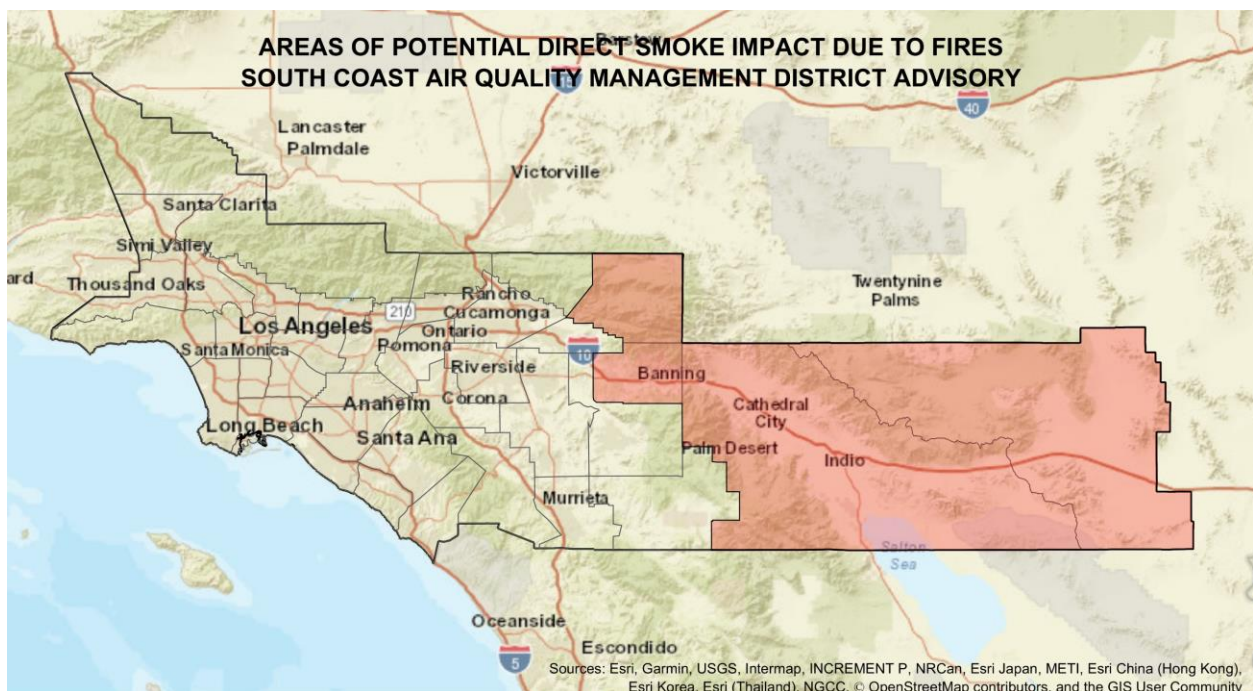
- Winds from the west in the proximity of the fire are expected to continue at least for the next several days. Therefore, smoke impacts are not expected west of Banning.

- Impacts in the San Gorgonio Pass (Area 29): most of the smoke impacts will continue to be concentrated at higher elevations near the fire. It is possible that some smoke may be transported down from the higher elevations in the overnight hours.
- Impacts in the East San Bernardino Mountains (Area 38): smoke impacts will continue in close proximity to the fire and towards the east. While conditions may change, significant smoke impacts are not likely in Big Bear, based on model predictions.
- Impacts in the Coachella Valley (Area 30): smoke impacts are possible throughout the Coachella Valley starting on Sunday afternoon and continuing throughout the day on Monday. Air quality will be a strong function of how much smoke gets transported north through the Morongo Valley and Yucca Valley vs. how much smoke gets transported south into the Coachella Valley. Model predictions indicate that smoke transport to the south is a strong possibility.
- Impacts in Eastern Riverside County (Area 31): significant smoke impacts are expected to persist in this region and throughout Joshua Tree National Park.

Overall, meteorological conditions may bring smoke and ash into portions of the San Gorgonio Pass, the eastern San Bernardino Mountains, the Coachella Valley, and Eastern Riverside County. **Unhealthy** or higher AQI levels are possible in areas of direct smoke impacts.

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

- **Riverside County:** San Gorgonio Pass (Area 29), Coachella Valley (Area 30), East Riverside County (Area 31)
- **San Bernardino County:** East San Bernardino Mountains (Area 38)



**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>

South Coast AQMD Advisory updates can be found at the following link: <http://www.aqmd.gov/advisory>

To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories and forecasts by email, go to <http://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: <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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