



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** July 31, 2020

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## **South Coast AQMD Issues Smoke Advisory Due to Apple Fire North of Cherry Valley**

**Valid Friday July 31, 2020 through Saturday August 01, 2020**

*This advisory is in effect through Saturday 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 10:00 pm, the burn area was 700 acres with 0% containment. Information on the Apple Fire can be found on the Riverside County Fire Department website <http://www.rvcfire.org>.

The Apple Fire is producing visible smoke this evening based on webcam imagery and social media posts in Cherry Valley and in the San Gorgonio Pass. PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations at the South Coast AQMD's monitor in Banning is still within the **Good** to **Moderate** Air Quality Index (AQI) index levels as of Friday evening, but AQI levels measured at low cost sensors in the Northern Coachella Valley are beginning to increase. 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**

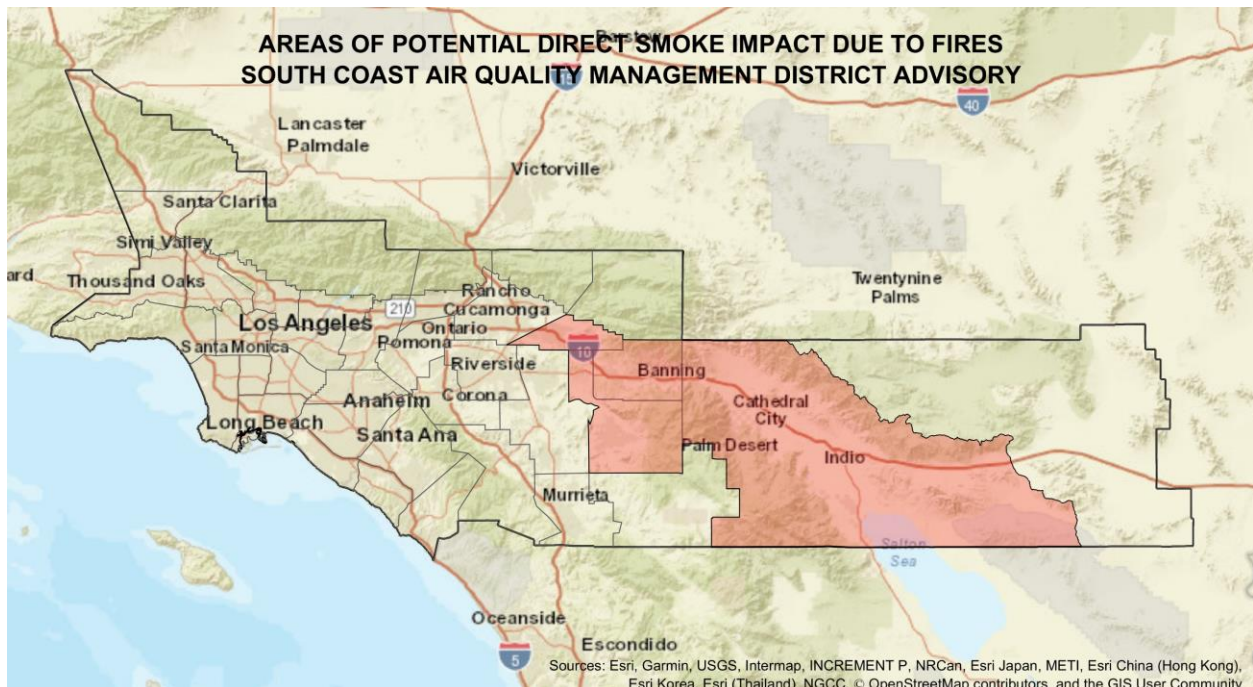
- Winds are predicted to be from the northwest on Friday evening until midnight, which could push smoke to the southeast, towards Beaumont, Banning, the San Gorgonio Pass and the northern Coachella Valley.
- After midnight and until the morning hours, winds will come from the north, which could lead to smoke impacts in Beaumont and portions of the northern San Jacinto Valley. Elevated ground level concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub> are expected overnight as the smoke is likely to remain closer to the ground.

- Winds are predicted to be from the northwest during the daylight hours on Saturday, which could push smoke once again towards the southeast, which may lead to smoke impacts in Beaumont, Banning, throughout the San Gorgonio Pass and the northern Coachella Valley.

Overall, meteorological conditions may bring smoke and ash into portions of the San Gorgonio Pass and possibly the northern Coachella Valley and the San Jacinto Valley. **Unhealthy** or higher AQI levels are possible in areas of direct smoke impacts. Ozone levels not associated with the fire are expected to reach **Very Unhealthy** AQI levels in the area on Saturday afternoon.

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

- **Riverside County:** Hemet-San Jacinto Valley (Area 28), San Gorgonio Pass (Area 29), Coachella Valley (Area 30)
- **San Bernardino County:** East San Bernardino Valley (Area 35)



**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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