

ORANGE COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE # 012

Date: 9/12/24

Time: 15:38

HEALTH CARE AGENCY AIR QUALITY ADVISORY

Smoke from local wildfires continues to impact the air quality throughout Orange County, especially those communities closest to the fire. The South Coast Air Quality Management District ([AQMD](#)) issued a Wildfire Smoke Advisory this week noting unhealthy air quality throughout Orange County with some communities reaching hazardous levels. Levels will fluctuate depending on wind patterns. Unhealthy air quality can have a significant effect on your health, so it is important to follow AQMD recommendations on [wildfire smoke and ash safety tips](#) to protect your health during a wildfire smoke advisory:

- Stay indoors, keep windows and doors closed, use air conditioner on re-circulate mode, and improve [ventilation](#) by using air-purifiers and/or replacing air filters.
- When the Air Quality Index (AQI) is above 151, limit or cease outdoor related work tasks or activities.
- If you must be outdoors in a smoky area, or an area with unhealthy air (AQI 151+), consider using an [N95](#) respirator and limit your time outdoors.
- Stay well hydrated. Dry, hot weather conditions during wildfires can increase the body's fluid needs, while wildfire smoke can irritate your eyes, throat, and lungs.
- Schools can follow guidance available at [Air Quality - School Disaster and Emergency Management \(CA Dept of Education\)](#) to protect students.
- Employers should follow [Cal/OSHA standards](#) to protect workers.

Certain people may have more sensitivities to wildfire smoke including children, pregnant women, older adults, those with health conditions such as lung or heart disease, the unhoused, those with transportation challenges, disabilities, outdoor workers, immunocompromised, and those experiencing active respiratory illness.

If your medical conditions worsen, or you have difficulty breathing or feel extreme fatigue, contact your health care provider.

Call 911 or seek immediate medical care if you experience chest pain or chest tightness.

Sign up for air quality alerts from the South Coast Air Quality Management District ([AQMD](#)) to learn more about Orange County air quality.

The Public Information Hotline phone number is (714) 628-7085.

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Email or Faxed/time: _____

Sent by: Orange County Operational Area on behalf of HCA