

SMOKE ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SMOKE FROM 'APPLE FIRE' IMPACTING MOJAVE DESERT

Advisory expanded to include most communities in MDAQMD

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) is advising smoke from the Apple Fire burning in Riverside County has pushed out across much of the region. Air quality data as of 8 a.m. Monday, Aug. 3 shows an increase in smoke of varying levels throughout the desert.

The Morongo Basin continues to be the most impacted area of the jurisdiction. However, low-cost sensors at various locations showed an uptick in particulates in the Victor Valley, Barstow area, Baker, Mojave National Preserve, Trona and Blythe.

Increasing levels of smoke particulate can affect everyone, but it's particularly unhealthy for those with heart and respiratory illnesses, children, seniors and active adults.

In any area impacted by smoke:

- **everyone** should avoid any vigorous outdoor or indoor exertion;
- people with respiratory or heart disease, older adults, and children should **remain indoors**;
- keep windows and doors closed;
- run your air conditioner if you have one; recirculation function is ideal.
- avoid using a swamp cooler or whole-house fan to prevent bringing additional smoke inside.

The U.S. EPA's Smoke-Ready toolbox offers helpful tips to protect your health and that of those around you at <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/fires-and-your-health>.

Levels of smoke and particulates will depend on changes in winds and the containment of the fire. This advisory will be in effect as long as conditions warrant.

MDAQMD encourages residents to check local air quality levels by visiting www.AirNow.gov or www.enviroflash.info where you can sign up for text and email alerts with Air Quality forecasts.

MDAQMD is the air pollution control authority and permitting agency for the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County and the Palo Verde Valley in Riverside County. It's governed by a board of 13 members representing nine incorporated municipalities and two counties within its boundaries. Visit mdaqmd.ca.gov or follow @MDAQMD on social media.

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MOJAVE DESERT AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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