

# OZONE ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Aug. 21, 2020**

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) is advising of potentially poor air quality this weekend due to ground-level ozone.

This advisory is in effect through Monday, Aug. 24, 2020 and is separate from the smoke advisory in effect throughout the MDAQMD jurisdiction.

The air quality forecast issued for Saturday, Aug. 22 shows unhealthy to very unhealthy levels of ground-level ozone expected in the Barstow area, Phelan/Pinon Hills area, Trona, Victor Valley, Yucca Valley and the communities immediately surrounding these locations. As Southern California continues to experience high temperatures amid an ongoing heatwave, ground-level ozone is likely to worsen ambient air quality to the Red – Unhealthy and Purple – Very Unhealthy Air Quality Index categories.

Prolonged exposure at the Red level may cause health effects for everyone. At the Purple level, everyone may experience more serious health effects. Those with respiratory illnesses, children, seniors and active adults are especially at risk of health effects.

Additionally, ground-level ozone is forecast to be in the Orange - Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups in and near Twentynine Palms this weekend.

As with the smoke advisory also in place, we encourage people in the affected areas to remain indoors when possible with doors and windows closed and air conditioning units on. Evaporative (swamp) coolers aren't effective solutions for reducing exposure to ground-level ozone, wildfire smoke or other pollutants as they don't filter the air coming into your home.

MDAQMD encourages residents to check local air quality levels by visiting [www.AirNow.gov](http://www.AirNow.gov) or [www.enviroflash.info](http://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](http://mdaqmd.ca.gov) or follow @MDAQMD on social media.*

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## MOJAVE DESERT AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**BRAD POIRIEZ**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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