

# AIR QUALITY ADVISORY

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## OZONE, WILDFIRE SMOKE THREATENING MOJAVE DESERT AIR QUALITY

Advisory in effect through Labor Day weekend

**Sept. 6, 2020**

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) is advising of potentially poor air quality for the remainder of this long weekend due to ground-level ozone and wildfire smoke impacts.

This advisory is in effect through Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020 for all of the MDAQMD jurisdiction.

The air quality forecast issued for Sunday, Sept. 6 shows unhealthy levels of ground-level ozone expected in the Yucca Valley and Phelan/Pinon Hills areas; moderate to unhealthy for sensitive groups air quality in all other areas of the district. As Southern California continues to experience high temperatures amid an ongoing heatwave, ground-level ozone is likely to worsen ambient air quality.

Additionally, smoke from the El Dorado fire burning near Yucaipa is pushing broad clouds of smoke up and over the High Desert in San Bernardino County. MDAQMD regulated monitors and some low-cost sensors placed throughout the region show varying levels of PM2.5, the pollutant found in wildfire smoke. Levels have been moderate, but can increase and worsen breathable air quality depending on fire containment and shifting winds.

Increasing levels of smoke or ground-level ozone 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 poor air quality including 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 outdoor pollutants 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>.

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

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