



air pollution control district  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



## **For Immediate Release**

**November 7, 2024**

### **Contact**

Aeron Arlin Genet, APCD Executive Director and Air Pollution Control Officer: (805) 979-8282

Ryyn Schumacher, Santa Barbara County Public Health Public Information Officer, (805) 680-8819

## **Air Quality Watch Remains in Place in Santa Barbara County**

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, Calif. — The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department and the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District are notifying the public that the Air Quality Watch for Santa Barbara County remains in place due to the continued transport of wildfire smoke from the Mountain Fire in Ventura County, and the local smoke resulting from the Santa Lucia Fire outside of Lompoc. Both fires are producing significant smoke, and wind conditions are dispersing the smoke plume throughout the region. Current ground level air quality conditions throughout Santa Barbara County are good to moderate, with Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups in locations in close proximity to the Santa Lucia fire. This is a dynamic situation, and local air quality conditions can change quickly. All Santa Barbara County residents are encouraged to stay alert to local conditions by visiting [www.ourair.org/todays-air-quality](http://www.ourair.org/todays-air-quality) or [fire.airnow.gov](http://fire.airnow.gov).

Levels of smoke and particles, and areas affected, will vary. If you see or smell smoke in the air, be cautious and use common sense to protect your and your family's health. Everyone, especially people with heart or lung conditions, older adults, pregnant women, and children, should limit time spent outdoors and avoid outdoor exercise when high concentrations of smoke and particles are in the air.

**When air quality reaches unhealthy levels, and/or if you see or smell smoke, we recommend that everyone:**

- Head indoors and remain indoors, as much as possible;
- Avoid strenuous outdoor activity;
- Close all windows and doors that lead outside to prevent bringing additional smoke inside;
- Create a "clean air room" to keep indoor air quality safe.
- When driving use "recycle" or re-circulate mode to avoid drawing smoky air into the car;
- Drink plenty of fluids to keep respiratory membranes moist; and,
- If you are an essential worker and must work outside during wildfire smoke conditions, the use of a properly fitted N-95 mask provides protection.

**The best protection against wildfire smoke is to stay indoors as much as possible when smoke is present. For information on different ways to create a "clean air room," click [here](#).**

If you have symptoms that may be related to exposure to smoke and soot, contact your doctor. Symptoms include repeated coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest tightness or pain, palpitations, and nausea or unusual fatigue or lightheadedness.