

Wildfire Smoke Preparedness

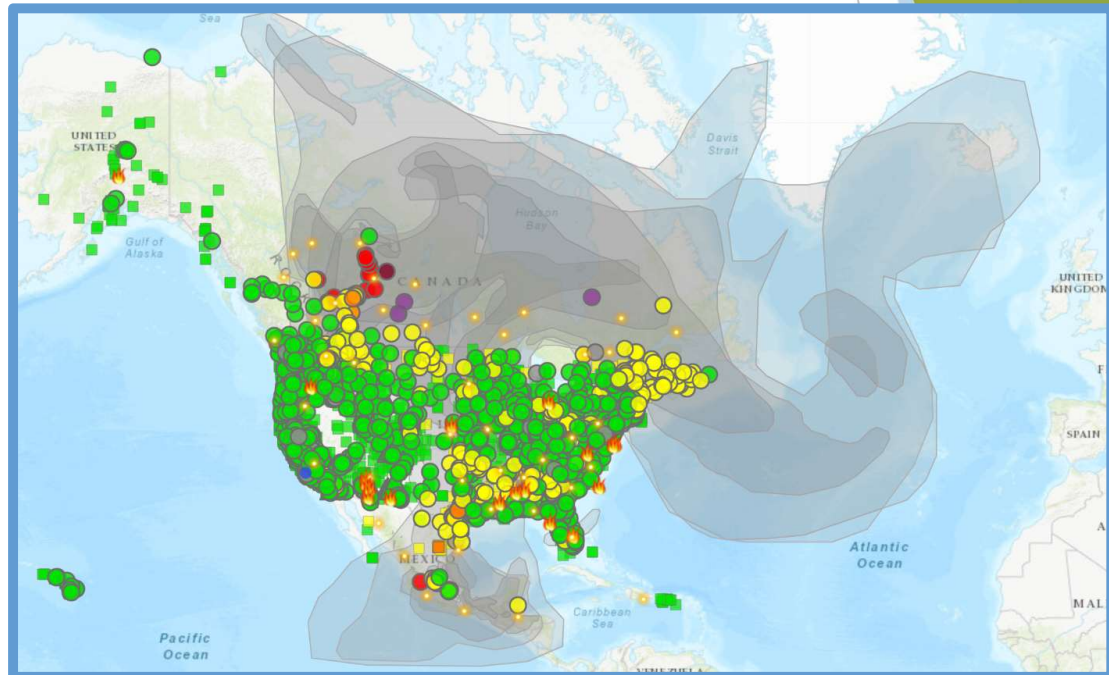
Board of Directors
Santa Barbara County
Air Pollution Control District

Our Mission: To protect the people and the environment of Santa Barbara County from the effects of air pollution.

Aeron Arlin Genet
Executive Director / Air Pollution Control Officer

Lyz Bantilan
Public Information Officer

June 15, 2023
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Overview

- ▶ Wildfire Smoke Program
- ▶ Air Quality Monitoring & Website Resources
- ▶ Wildfire Smoke and Health
- ▶ Air Quality Alerts
- ▶ Health-Protective Actions
- ▶ Outreach Tools

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Rey Fire, 2016



Wildfire Smoke Program - Preparation & Partnership

- ▶ All hands on deck
- ▶ Work jointly with Public Health
- ▶ Issue bilingual Air Quality Alerts
- ▶ Attend inter-agency briefings
- ▶ Monitoring and forecasting
- ▶ Health-protective measures for indoor air quality



air pollution control district
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



For Immediate Release
October 13, 2021

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Air Quality Alert for Santa Barbara County

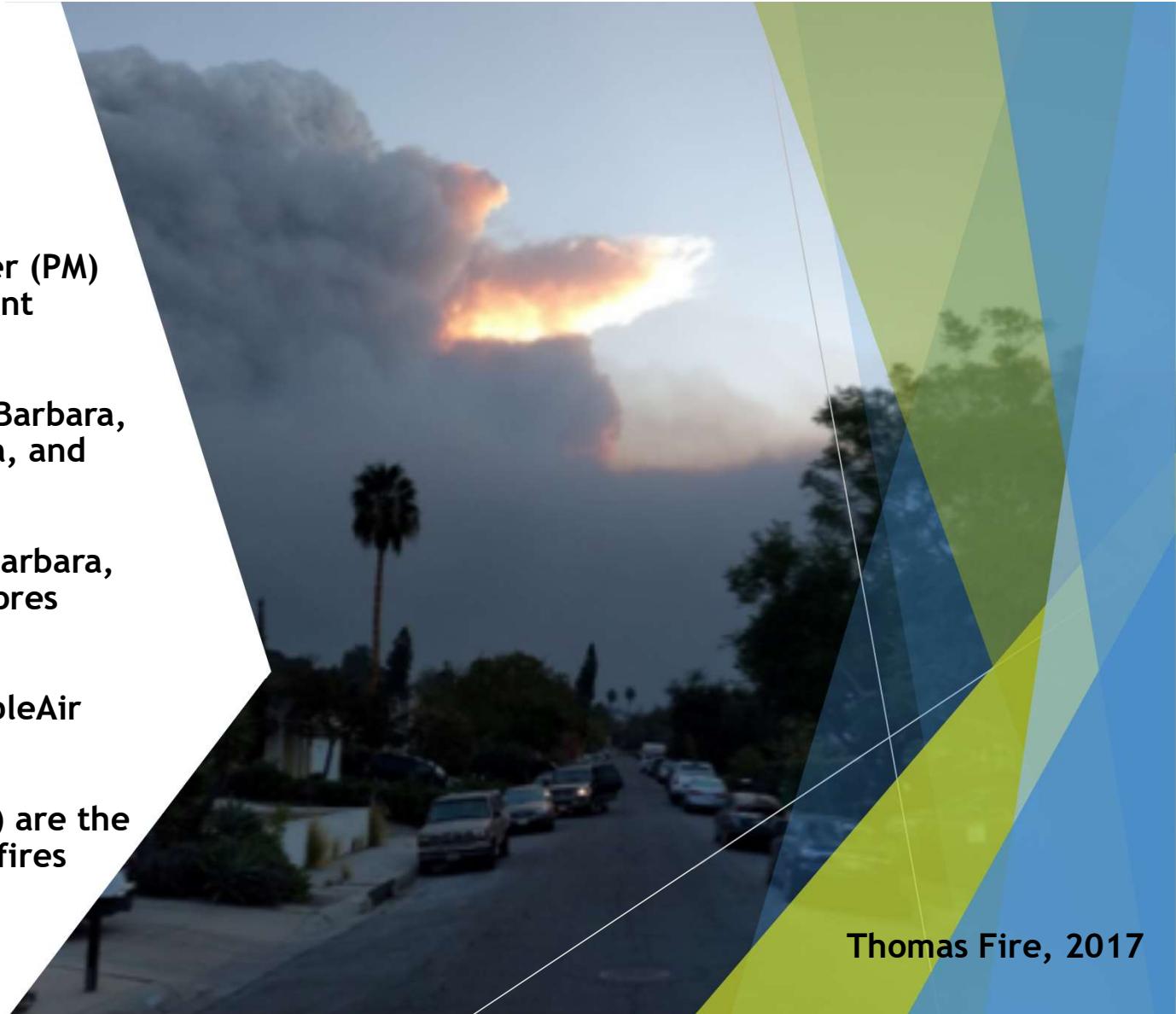
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, Calif. — The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department and the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) have upgraded the Air Quality Watch to an Alert for Santa Barbara County, including the Channel Islands. Smoke and ash from the Alisal Fire is affecting air quality, and winds in the forecast are expected to push more smoke onshore. This is a dynamic situation,

Air Quality Monitoring

- ▶ APCD collects particulate matter (PM) data countywide from permanent monitors:
 - ▶ PM 2.5: Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, Lompoc, Santa Ynez, Goleta, and Carpinteria (coming soon)
 - ▶ PM 10: Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, Lompoc, Goleta, and Las Flores Canyon
- ▶ We also have installed 40+ PurpleAir sensors throughout the county
- ▶ PM 2.5 (smoke) and PM 10 (ash) are the pollutants of concern with wildfires

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Thomas Fire, 2017

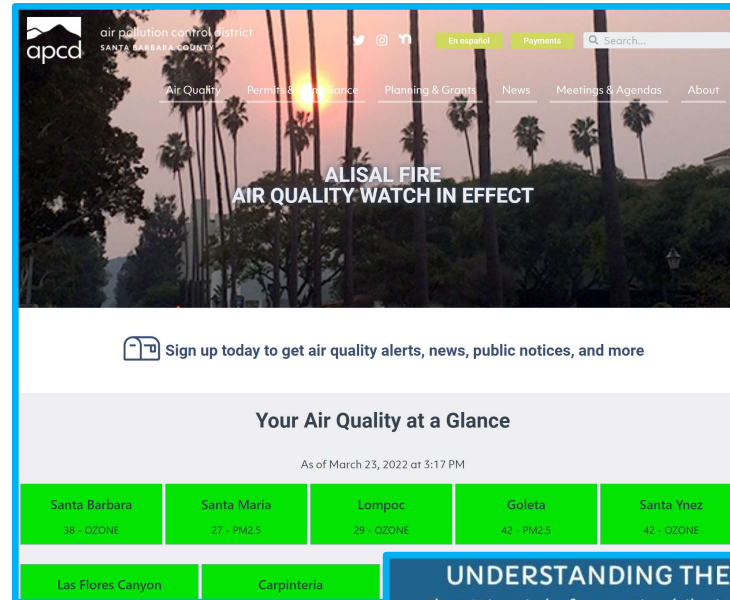


Air Quality Data on Our Website

www.OurAir.org/todays-air-quality

- ▶ Today's Air Quality & Forecasts webpage with rolling 24 hours' worth of data and three-day forecast (today, tomorrow, next day)
- ▶ EPA Fire & Smoke Map combines permanent monitoring stations and air quality sensors: <https://fire.airnow.gov/>
- ▶ Wildfire Emergency splash page

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The screenshot shows the website for the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) of Santa Barbara County. The header includes the APCD logo, navigation links for Air Quality, Permits & Compliance, Planning & Grants, News, Meetings & Agendas, and About. A search bar and a language selector (English) are also present. A banner for 'ALISAL FIRE AIR QUALITY WATCH IN EFFECT' is displayed. Below the banner, there is a sign-up prompt: 'Sign up today to get air quality alerts, news, public notices, and more'. The main content area is titled 'Your Air Quality at a Glance' and shows data as of March 23, 2022 at 3:17 PM. The data is presented in a grid of colored boxes for various locations: Santa Barbara (38 OZONE), Santa Maria (27 PM2.5), Lompoc (29 OZONE), Goleta (42 PM2.5), Santa Ynez (42 OZONE), Las Flores Canyon, and Carpinteria.

UNDERSTANDING THE AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI)

The AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality. It tells you how clean or unhealthy your air is, and what associated health effects might be a concern. AQI values can be used to make informed decisions about limiting outdoor activities and reducing exposure to air pollution.

1-50	GOOD	Air quality is satisfactory and poses little or no health risk. No restrictions on outdoor activity.
51-100	MODERATE	Air quality is acceptable; however, people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution should monitor or reduce physical activity.
101-150	UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects and should limit physical activity or time spent outdoors. The general public is not likely to be affected.
151-200	UNHEALTHY FOR ALL	Even healthy individuals should limit physical activity or time spent outdoors. Members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects and should avoid the outdoors and physical activity entirely.
201-300	VERY UNHEALTHY FOR ALL	Health alert; everyone may experience more serious health effects. All activities should be moved indoors or rescheduled to another day.

Wildfire Smoke & Health

- ▶ Smoke and ash contain particulate matter (PM)
- ▶ PM harms the lungs and heart
- ▶ Sensitive groups are especially vulnerable to health effects
 - ▶ Sensitive groups: Kids, seniors, pregnant women, people with heart and/or lung conditions

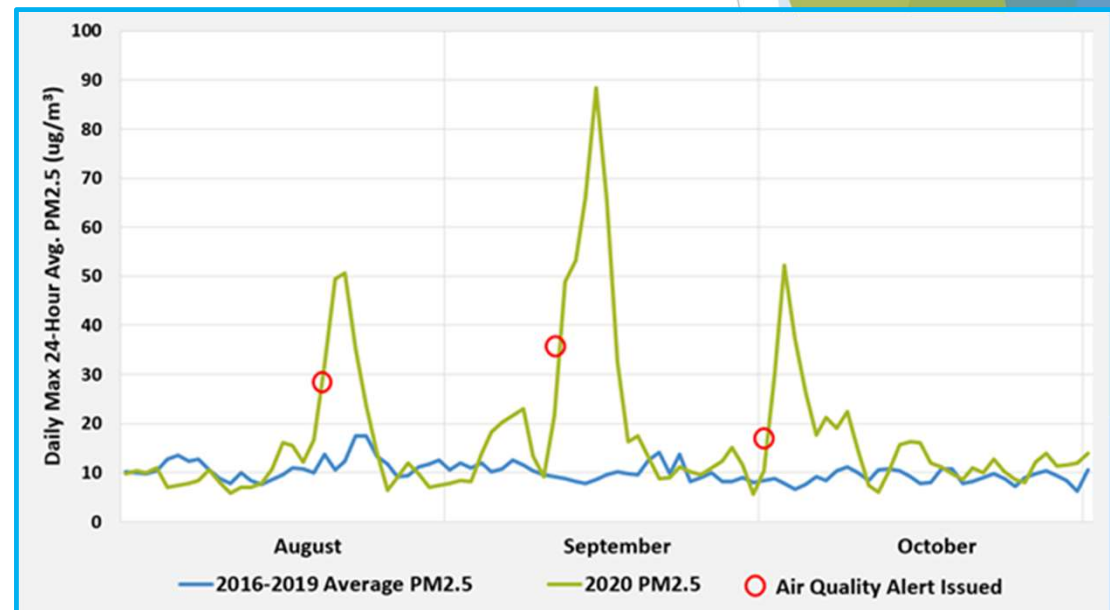


Air Quality Alerts

- ▶ Goal is to issue Alerts before air quality becomes Unhealthy
- ▶ Alerts are issued with County Public Health
- ▶ Smoke from wildfires hundreds of miles away can also travel to Santa Barbara County
- ▶ Alerts are issued in English and Spanish
- ▶ During smoke events, it's important to pay attention to dynamic current conditions as well as the daily forecasts

www.OurAir.org/subscribe

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Health-Protective Actions

- ▶ The best protection against wildfire smoke is to stay indoors as much as you can
 - ▶ Buy or make a HEPA device to create a “clean air room” at home:
www.OurAir.org/clean-air-rooms
 - ▶ Keep windows and doors closed and well-sealed
 - ▶ Don't exercise outdoors
- ▶ Check air quality readings to see when conditions improve
 - ▶ AQI chart
 - ▶ Eyes and nose
- ▶ N-95 masks are a great tool for people who must work outside

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Whittier Fire, 2017

Outreach Tools

- ▶ Sharing information about “clean air rooms”
 - ▶ Infographics and new videos
 - ▶ Clean Air Centers
- ▶ Working with partners to encourage people to sign up for Air Quality Alerts - via text & email
 - ▶ Ag Commissioner’s Office
 - ▶ County OEM
 - ▶ CARB
- ▶ Activity chart for schools
- ▶ Can provide bilingual content for newsletters, social media, etc.

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2020 Smoke Transport

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Alisal Fire, 2021