



Air Pollution Control District
San Luis Obispo County



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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AIR QUALITY ALERT - DUST IMPACTING SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA, – San Luis Obispo County is being impacted by dust from the San Joaquin Valley. The San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and Public Health Department are working in partnership to identify any potential health impacts and to inform the community about safeguarding individual health.

Blowing dust is severely impacting air quality in western Kern County, including the City of Bakersfield and surrounding communities. San Joaquin Valley air pollution officials are cautioning Kern County residents that emergency-level particulate matter concentrations may be reached during this high-wind event.

Currently, winds are bringing dust from Kern County into SLO County. Expect skies to be hazy and coarse particulate (PM₁₀) and fine particulate (PM_{2.5}) concentrations to be much higher than normal.

As a precaution:

- Avoid strenuous outdoor activity
- Remain indoors as much as possible
- Close all windows and doors that lead outside to prevent bringing additional dust inside
- If possible, set any heating/air conditioning/ventilation systems to recirculate

These precautions are especially important for sensitive groups, including children, older adults, and people with existing respiratory illness and heart conditions, as they are particularly vulnerable to the health effects of poor air quality. Families with small children should be aware that even if adults in the household have no symptoms, children may experience symptoms due to their smaller body mass and developing lungs. If dust concentrations increase, healthy people could be affected as well. If you experience a cough, shortness of breath, wheezing, exhaustion, light-headedness or chest pain, stop any outdoor activity immediately and seek medical attention.

APCD and County officials will continue to closely monitor smoke impacts and air quality in San Luis Obispo County. By following the current air quality conditions (Air Quality Index or AQI) on the APCD website: slocleanair.org, the public can monitor real-time air quality throughout SLO County. The AQI focuses on health effects individuals may experience after breathing polluted air. The forecasted AQI is available via the forecast page on the APCD website. The forecasted AQI is representative of pollution exposure for a 24-hour period. Current conditions may be different from the 24-hour forecast. Follow the SLO County APCD and Public Health Department Twitter feeds for the latest updates (@slocleanair and @SLOPublicHealth). Sign up for AirAware alerts right on your phone by visiting our website at SLOCleanAir.org.

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