



## Frequently Asked Questions

To click any of the hyperlinks in this document, select "CTRL (or Command)" then click.

### 1. How do I sign up for the AirAware Alerts?

- To sign up, simply visit our website at [SLOCleanAir.org](http://SLOCleanAir.org). On the homepage, you will see blue "quick link" buttons. Click the AirAware Alerts button and follow the instructions on the next page. If you have any questions or need help getting your mobile device signed up, call us at 805-781-1003.

### 2. What phone number will the text alerts be coming from?

- All alerts will come from the phone number 805-250-4188. Your privacy is very important to us; we will not spam, sell or otherwise provide your phone number to any third party.

### 3. What do the different alert notifications mean?

- Early Alert for Blowing Dust on the Nipomo Mesa: These alerts are sent whenever the CDF Nipomo monitor registers an hourly PM<sub>10</sub> concentration above 175 ug/m<sup>3</sup> between the hours of 9:00am and midnight. This value indicates a blowing dust event is underway and a health advisory will likely be issued that day. CDF is the most reliable indicator of regional blowing dust.
- All APCD Press Releases: APCD issues Press Releases for various topics throughout the year, including Better Breather Alerts for Blowing Dust, prescribed burn notices, announcements of events like Bike Month or Earth Day, and other things of public interest. These Press Releases are then posted on our [website](#). If you would like to be informed when there is a new press release available, please sign up for this notification.
- Air Quality Index is "Unhealthy": "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups": "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" corresponds to an Air Quality Index (AQI) value between 101 and 150. This is represented by an "orange" color code that indicates anyone exposed to air quality conditions in that AQI range could experience adverse health effects, with members of the most sensitive population groups (older adults, children, those with pre-existing medical conditions) being most susceptible to serious health effects from exposure to elevated air pollution conditions. To see a description of all the Air Quality Index codes and search the AQI for your zip code, visit the [AirNow](#) website.
- Wildfire Smoke Impacts: Should there be a wildfire or prescribed burn and our local monitors register impacts countywide or to a specific region within the county, these users will be notified.
- AirAlerts en Español: By selecting this notification option, users will be sent all alerts in Spanish.

### 4. What is the difference between an "Early Alert for Blowing Dust" and a "Better Breather Alert for Blowing Dust?"

- Our AirAware Early Alert System provides interested parties a text message whenever the CDF Nipomo monitor registers an hourly PM<sub>10</sub> concentration above 175 ug/m<sup>3</sup>. A Better Breather Alert for Blowing Dust is issued as a general press release and to impacted area schools and

individual subscribers whenever any Nipomo area monitor registers an hourly PM<sub>10</sub> concentration above 300 ug/m<sup>3</sup>.

- 5. How many alerts should I expect to receive?**
  - If you sign up for our “Early Alert for Blowing Dust” you will only receive an alert the first time PM<sub>10</sub> exceeds 175 in a day, so you will not receive multiple alerts in a single day.
- 6. I just received an alert to my phone, how do I access the full Press Release that was just issued?**
  - All Press Releases and Media Alerts that are issued by the SLO County Air Pollution Control District can be found on our [website](#).
- 7. How can I access hourly data?**
  - The hourly data, specific to each monitoring station can be found on our website; [click here](#) to view.
- 8. Will I start getting text alerts right away?**
  - Please be aware that it may take up to 1 business day for changes to our messaging list to take effect.
- 9. How can I stop getting text alerts?**
  - For users that have signed up for these text notifications, you can reply STOP when a notification is received. Should there be an issue and you continue to get alerts when you have indicated you would like to unsubscribe, please call 805-781-1003 and we will assist in removing your number from our log. Please note that if you wish to start receiving alerts again, you will also need to text START to the same air aware number (805-250-4188).
- 10. Are text messages sent 7 days a week?**
  - The Early Alert for Blowing Dust is the only notification that is an automated alert. The others are manually entered and are triggered by press releases issued Monday through Friday.
- 11. Are these alerts available in Spanish?**
  - Yes. All of our alerts are translated to Spanish. We have a specific list-serve you can sign up for indicating you would like to receive alerts in Spanish. [Click here](#) to sign up.
- 12. How can I see all of the days that alerts have been sent?**
  - We have developed an automated log that tracks whenever an Alert is sent out. You can view this log by [clicking here](#).