



EMERALD KEEPERS

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For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado



HOW CLEAN IS THE AIR WE BREATHE?

The San Diego region ranked the eighth most polluted place to live in the U.S. based on ozone levels, according to a report by the American Lung Association. The annual State of the Air report also named the region the 16th worst area nationwide for short-term particle pollution this year.

To track pollution in Coronado, Emerald Keepers purchased and installed four air-quality monitors for a total of six currently operating in Coronado.

Data from these monitors from Purple Air indicate Coronado's air quality is consistently worse than neighboring communities and the World Health Organization's recommendation for clean air.

INDICATORS

Most air pollutants are not visible, so air-quality data reports on non-visible pollutants through two main indicators:

1. Air Quality Index (AQI). A value between 0 and 500 measures the ozone, particles, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide in the air.

An AQI of 50 or below represents good air quality while AQI over 150 is unhealthy for everyone. Readings above 100 are unhealthy for sensitive groups. During wildfire season, AQI can reach 400 or higher indicating extreme health risks. In recent months, Coronado AQI exceeded 150 on several days. (The Apple iPhone weather app reports AQI for Coronado but that data is based on sensors in San Diego.)

2. Particulate Matter (PM). PM numbers indicate micrograms per cubic meter of hazardous particulates in the air. Larger particles such as dust have a PM value of 10, while smaller microscopic particles have a PM value of 2.5. Air quality is primarily reported with PM2.5, as this measures the smaller particles that pose greater health risks. Emerald Keepers' air quality monitors provide real-time PM2.5 data, available at purpleair.com and will be reported weekly in the Eagle & Journal.

POLLUTERS

The major source of Coronado's air pollution is emissions from gas-powered vehicles and airplanes (commercial and military). However, Coronado's air pollution is also impacted by

ships, fire pits, barbecues, wildfires, landscaping equipment, and fireworks.

Air quality is highly localized depending on traffic, winds, and proximity to trees. As a result, it can differ significantly by time of day and location.

HEALTH IMPACTS

Poor air quality can have significant health impacts on children, the elderly, and those with respiratory conditions. Short-term exposure to PM2.5 pollutants can exacerbate lung issues and trigger cardiovascular problems.

Long-term exposure has been linked to chronic respiratory diseases, reduced lung function, and a higher risk of mortality. Everyone should avoid exercising or working outdoors in times of unhealthy air quality.

IMPROVING AIR QUALITY

Sept. 7 is International Day of Clean Air and a reminder that we can all take steps to improve our air quality. Drive less, plant trees, and switch to renewable energy to reduce local air pollution and improve the health of our community.

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Emerald Keepers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

