

Air Monitoring Fact Sheet

What are air monitors?

- Stationary devices that measure ambient air quality
- Comply with national standards
- Are regularly checked for accuracy, stringent quality control and control requirements

What do they measure?

- Ozone (or smog) occurs when high temperatures and vehicle exhaust mix
- PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} (particulate matter) tiny particles from the combustion of solid or liquid fuels
- Nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, and sulfur dioxide/oxides occur from fossil fuel combustion
- Hydrogen sulfide occurs from crude oil and natural gas production

What are the benefits?

- Provide highly accurate readings
 - Show hourly and daily averages over the region
 - Readings are based on national health standards

What are the limitations?

- Not designed to measure incidents such as a facility fires but may pick up elevated pollution levels when an industrial fire or release occurs
- Not designed to determine the source of any specific pollutant

Other types of monitors the Air District deploys

- Temporary monitors for prolonged incidents such as wildfires
- Mobile monitors for short-term incidents such as facility fires
- Trailers for longer term special studies



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