



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

NEWS

For Immediate Release
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***Spare the Air Tonight* Season Ends** **Season Closes Friday, February 16, 2007**

San Francisco, CA – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District officially ended the wintertime *Spare the Air Tonight* season today. This season, the Bay Area Air District issued 30 advisories whenever air quality was predicted to reach unhealthy levels. This high number of advisories however, is not a sign of declining air quality but rather the result of stricter air-quality standards and an usually dryer winter.

In September 2006, based on scientific-health studies, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency revised the standard for fine particulate matter (or PM 2.5) that substantially lowered the previous threshold. That, combined with cold nights and clear, dry weather resulted in the frequent *Spare the Air Tonight* advisories that served as a protective call to action for Bay Area residents.

“The Air District is developing regional strategies to reduce small particle pollution to protect public health and meet the revised standard,” said Air District Executive Officer Jack Broadbent. “Wood burning accounts for more than 30 percent of wintertime air pollution. The Air District wants to remind residents that even though the *Spare the Air Tonight* season formally ends on Friday, February 16, we need residents to remain diligent in their clean air choices by not burning wood and limiting their driving.”

This winter, the Air District’s *Spare the Air Tonight* season began November 20, 2006. The campaign aims to alert the public about wintertime air pollution and to help the Bay Area meet air-quality standards. Particulate pollution has been linked with a series of health problems, especially for the very young, the elderly, and people with respiratory or cardiovascular disease.

For more information call 1-800 HELP AIR or visit our website: www.sparetheair.org

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