

SMOKE ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 2, 2014 CONTACT: Aaron Richardson 415.215.7212

Northern California wildfire smoke may impact Bay Area air quality

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management is issuing a smoke advisory to Bay Area residents about the potential smoke impacts from the Northern California wildfires.

Smoke from these fires may impact parts of Sonoma and Napa counties. Residents may notice the smell of wildfire smoke.

Residents in areas affected by smoke are advised to:

- Reduce exposure to smoky air by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed
- Set air conditioning units and car vent systems to re-circulate
- If air smells of smoke, limit outdoor activities to avoid unnecessary exposure
- If you have asthma or other lung disease, make sure you follow your doctor's directions about taking your medicines and following your asthma management plan. Call your doctor if your symptoms worsen.
- If you have heart or lung disease, if you are an older adult, or if you have children, talk with your doctor about whether and when you should leave the area.
- Go to <u>www.baaqmd.gov</u> or <u>www.sparetheair.org</u> to check real-time air quality

Smoke can irritate the eyes and airways, causing coughing, a scratchy throat and irritated sinuses. Elevated particulate matter in the air can trigger asthma attacks, in those who suffer from asthma. Elderly persons, children and individuals with respiratory illnesses are particularly susceptible to elevated air pollution levels and should take extra precautions to avoid exposure.

The Air District will continue to monitor smoke impacts and issue additional advisories as conditions warrant. A Spare the Air advisory is not in effect and no burn ban is in place.

For more information about smoke impacts please visit <u>www.sparetheair.org</u> or read this <u>U.S.</u> <u>EPA web page</u>.

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