



Advisory

For Immediate Release
December 3, 2006

Contact: Karen M. Schkolnick
415.816.5353

Spare the Air TONIGHT! Air Quality Forecast to be Unhealthy

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) is issuing a ***Spare the Air Tonight* Advisory for this evening, Sunday, December 3, 2006, through tomorrow morning.** Because concentrations of particulate pollution are forecast to reach unhealthy levels, the Air District is asking Bay Area residents **to not burn wood and to limit their driving** tonight and tomorrow morning.

There is no free transit during the Spare the Air Tonight season.

The tiny particles in wood smoke and vehicle exhaust can cause serious health problems. Due to their small size they can be inhaled deep into the lungs. These microscopic particles are only 2.5 microns in size or smaller, roughly 25 times smaller than the diameter of a human hair. Small particle pollution represents a health hazard for the general public, and is especially dangerous for the very young, the elderly, and for people with respiratory or cardiovascular disease.

"Let's break the wood-burning habit," Air District Executive Officer, Jack Broadbent declared. "When you hear a *Spare the Air Tonight* advisory, do your part to keep the air clean in your neighborhood by not burning wood."

Winter meteorology plays a role in air pollution. Unlike summer smog that peaks in the late afternoon, winter particulates are most highly concentrated at night and in the early morning hours. On winter evenings, the earth cools the air close to the ground, which creates an inversion layer of warmer air above. When there is no wind, pollution trapped under this lid of warm air can build up rapidly to unhealthy levels. During the winter the angle of the sun is so shallow that the earth does not radiate enough heat in the early morning hours to lift the inversion layer, so particulate pollution does not decline until mid-morning.

For background and air quality information please visit our website:
www.sparetheair.org

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