



Advisory

For Immediate Release
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Spare the Air TONIGHT Advisory! Air Quality is Forecast to be Unhealthy

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) is issuing a *Spare the Air Tonight* Advisory for this evening, Wednesday, January 3, through tomorrow morning. Forecasts predict that particulate pollution concentrations will reach unhealthy levels. The Air District is asking Bay Area residents to **not burn wood and to limit their driving** tonight and tomorrow morning, in order to help reduce particulate emissions. This is the **fifteenth** alert this season.

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

Still, cool weather conditions continue to favor the buildup of particulate matter. In the wintertime, particulate pollution is 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 persists until mid-morning.

Small particle pollution represents a significant health hazard for the general public, and is especially dangerous for the very young, the elderly, and for people with respiratory or cardiovascular disease. Protect yourself, your family and your community by not burning wood.

It's a new year— make a resolution to keep the air clean. Include clean air choices to your list of New Year's resolutions. Convert your wood burning fireplace to a natural gas or pellet stove. Make a commitment to drive less and consider buying a hybrid. Individual actions are vitally important to attaining and maintaining clean air in 2007.

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

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