



Advisory

For Immediate Release
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Spare the Air TONIGHT! Air District Expands Monitoring Capacity

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) is issuing a ***Spare the Air Tonight* Advisory for this evening, Tuesday, January 9, 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 **sixteenth** alert this season.

This winter the Air District has added fine particulate monitoring capabilities to the air quality monitoring station in Napa. Fine particle pollution is a potential health hazard for the general public -- especially for the very young, the elderly, and for people with respiratory or cardiovascular disease. The new monitoring capacity improves our ability to analyze the regional impacts of these particulate emissions.

"The Bay Area Air District has more air quality monitoring stations than most districts in the country," said Jack Broadbent, the Air District's Executive Officer. "By enhancing our already first-rate monitoring capacity, we're keeping ahead of the federal government's stricter fine particulate standards, and continuing to demonstrate our commitment to preserving public health.

Still, cool weather conditions favor the buildup of particulate matter. 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. Particulate pollution is most highly concentrated at night and in the early morning hours.

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

Some tips for a clean new year: 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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