



For Immediate Release
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Spare the Air TONIGHT! Cold Snap Brings Spare the Air Nights

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing a *Spare the Air Tonight* Advisory for this evening, Tuesday, January 16, 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** in order to help reduce particulate emissions. This is the **eighteenth** alert this season.

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.

"Cold weather generally brings about an increase in wood burning," said Jack Broadbent, the Air District's Executive Officer. "Wood burning contributes between one-third and 40 percent of particulate emissions on a typical winter evening. Bay Area residents should consider the potential health effects wood burning can have on their families and neighbors."

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.

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

Some tips to make this a clean new year: Convert your wood-burning fireplace to a natural gas or pellet stove. Drive less this year and use public transportation more. Remember, individual actions are vitally important to keeping the air clean in 2007.

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

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