



Advisory

For Immediate Release
January 26, 2007

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Wood Smoke Contributes to the 25th Night of Unhealthy Air this Winter

*Bay Area residents are being asked to help do
their part to reduce pollution this evening*

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing a ***Spare the Air Tonight*** advisory for this evening, Friday, January 26. 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.

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. It's important to remember that wood burning is not an efficient way to heat your home and that it contributes to the unhealthy build-up of harmful air pollutants.

The still, cool weather conditions in the Bay Area have resulted in a 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 little wind, pollution becomes trapped under a lid of warm air and can rapidly reach unhealthy levels. Particulate pollution is most highly concentrated at night and in the early morning hours.

Some tips to make this a clean new year:

- Do not burn wood when a Spare the Air Tonight advisory is issued.
- Convert your wood-burning fireplace to a natural gas stove.
- Drive less this year and use public transportation more.
- Remember, individual actions are vitally important to keeping the air clean.

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

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

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