



NEWS

**For Immediate Release
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Spare the Air Tonight Season Begins Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Air District Asks Residents Not to Burn Wood and to Drive Less

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has announced that its wintertime *Spare the Air Tonight* season will begin on Tuesday, November 13. The Air District will issue Spare the Air Tonight advisories when air quality is forecast to be unhealthy. On Spare the Air Nights, the Air District is asking the public to refrain from burning wood in fireplaces and woodstoves and to drive less. The winter campaign will end on February 11, 2008.

Although the Spare the Air Tonight season officially begins today, the Air District issued a Spare the Air Tonight advisory on November 6, when air quality was forecast to exceed federal health standards. Last winter, the U.S. EPA revised the federal 24-hour average fine particulate standard to be more protective of public health, which resulted in 20 exceedances of the standard.

"The *Spare the Air Tonight* campaign seeks to raise awareness of wintertime air pollution and encourage individuals to take action to prevent it," said Air District Executive Officer Jack P. Broadbent. "Wood smoke is the single largest source of fine particle pollution in winter months—responsible for 30-40 percent. Scientific evidence shows that both short- and long-term exposure to fine particle pollution is associated with a multitude of health risks."

The tiny particles in wood smoke and vehicle exhaust can cause serious health problems. Due to their small size, they can be inhaled deeply into the lungs. Fine 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.

There is NO Free Transit program in the winter.

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

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