



**For Immediate Release  
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## *Spare the Air* TONIGHT! Air Quality Forecast to be Unhealthy

**The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) is issuing a *Spare the Air Tonight* Advisory for this evening, Saturday, December 22, 2007.** Particulate pollution is forecast to reach unhealthy concentrations, and the Air District is asking Bay Area residents **to not burn wood and to limit their driving** tonight and tomorrow morning.

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

This evening, the Air District is asking residents not to burn wood in their fireplaces and wood stoves. The fine particles in wood smoke can cause serious health problems. They can be inhaled deep into the lungs, and are especially dangerous for the very young, the elderly, and for people with respiratory or cardiovascular disease. Studies have linked wood smoke exposure to bronchitis, asthma, heart disease, and a range of other respiratory ailments.

This is the fifth Spare the Air Night this winter. The Air District issues a Spare the Air Tonight advisory whenever air quality is forecast to be unhealthy. Last year, the U.S. EPA revised the federal 24-hour average fine particulate standard to be more health-protective. This standard was exceeded on 20 times last winter.

"Particulate matter is a significant public health concern," said Air District Executive Officer Jack P. Broadbent. "Wood burning is the single largest source of wintertime particulate pollution in the Bay Area, and the easiest for residents to control."

For more information please visit our websites at: [www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov) and [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org)

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