



**For Immediate Release
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Spare the Air Tonight Ring in a Healthy New Year!

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) is issuing a *Spare the Air Tonight* Advisory for New Year's Day, Tuesday, January 1, 2008. 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.

The Air District is encouraging Bay Area residents not to burn wood on New Year's Day. 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 Sixth (6th) Spare the Air Night this winter. The Air District issues a Spare the Air Tonight advisory whenever air quality is forecast to be unhealthy. In 2006, the U.S. EPA revised the federal 24-hour average fine particulate standard to be more health-protective. This standard was exceeded 20 times during the winter of 2006-07.

"We're asking Bay Area residents to get the New Year off to a clean start," said Air District Executive Officer Jack P. Broadbent. "By taking simple steps, like not burning wood on Spare the Air Nights, everyone can help keep the air healthy to breathe in 2008."

For more information please visit the Air District websites at: www.baaqmd.gov and www.sparetheair.org

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