



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Kristine Roselius
415.519.5419

NO Winter Spare the Air Alert issued for this Thanksgiving

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announces there will be no *Winter Spare the Air* Alert issued for Thanksgiving.

However, the weather forecast for Friday indicates that the Bay Area may experience weather conditions that trap smoke near the ground, causing unhealthy breathing conditions for all Bay Area residents. If unhealthy air quality is forecast for Friday, a *Winter Spare the Air* Alert will be issued by 2 p.m. on Thursday, which will ban burning for a full 24 hours on Friday.

“If people voluntarily refrain from wood burning on Thanksgiving it will not only reduce dangerous soot, but may help avoid having to call a *Winter Spare the Air* Alert on Friday,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Cleaner air will help us all enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.”

Wood smoke is the largest source of wintertime air pollution in the Bay Area and contains harmful pollutants such as hazardous soot and carbon monoxide, as well as toxins such as dioxin, which is linked to increased cancer rates in adults. In the winter, wood smoke from the 1.4 million fireplaces and wood stoves in the Bay Area contributes about one-third of the harmful soot in the air. Wood smoke can cause breathing difficulties in many individuals, especially children, seniors and those with heart or lung conditions

The public must check before they burn during the *Winter Spare the Air* season which runs from November 1 through February 28. The daily burn status can be found:

- On the Air District Web sites: www.baaqmd.gov or www.sparetheair.org
- Via the toll-free hotline 1-877-4-NO-BURN (complaints can also be filed via the hotline)
- By signing up for AirAlerts at www.sparetheair.org or by signing up for phone alerts at 1-800-430-1515.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency chartered with protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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