



# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Air District asks public not to burn wood** ***Wood burning is allowed, but strongly discouraged***

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is recommending that Bay Area residents not burn wood in their fireplaces or woodstoves tonight and tomorrow, Tuesday, December 6, to prevent air quality from becoming unhealthy.

A *Winter Spare the Air Alert* is NOT in effect and wood burning is allowed, but strongly discouraged.

“Although it is not mandatory, we are asking the public to refrain from wood burning to protect public health,” said Eric Stevenson, director of Technical Services for the Air District. “If we can reduce levels of wood smoke pollution now, we can potentially avoid unhealthy air quality and having to call a *Winter Spare the Air Alert* in the next several days.”

The weather forecast for the next several days indicates that the Bay Area may experience stagnant weather patterns that trap wood smoke near the ground, causing unhealthy breathing conditions for all Bay Area residents. If pollution levels continue to climb, the Air District will call a *Winter Spare the Air Alert* and the use of wood burning devices will be banned.

Wood smoke is the largest source of wintertime air pollution in the Bay Area. It contains harmful pollutants such as soot and carbon monoxide, as well as toxins such as dioxin. In the winter, wood smoke from the 1.4 million fireplaces and woodstoves in the Bay Area contributes about one-third of the harmful airborne soot pollution. Wood smoke can cause breathing difficulties for 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 29. The daily burn status can be found:

- On the Air District Web sites: [www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov) or [www.sparetheair.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.baaqmd.gov)) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. For more information about Spare the Air, visit [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org).

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