



NEWS

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CONTACT: Kristine Roselius
415.519.5419

Air District asks public to voluntarily not burn wood

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is requesting the public to voluntarily refrain from burning wood or firelogs to prevent unhealthy air quality this week.

The weather forecast for Thursday and 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 pollution levels continue to climb, *Winter Spare the Air* Alerts may need to be issued for later in the week.

“We are asking the public to voluntarily refrain from wood burning today and tomorrow,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Weather conditions that trap smoke close to the ground are expected later this week. If we reduce pollution from wood smoke now, we can potentially avoid calling a Winter Spare the Air Alert.”

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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