



# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Fifth *Winter Spare the Air* Alert called for Wednesday, December 14**  
*Use of wood-burning devices is prohibited*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing the season's fifth *Winter Spare the Air Alert* for Wednesday, December 14, which bans burning wood, manufactured fire logs or any other solid fuel, both indoors and outdoors for 24 hours.

"Cold, still weather conditions are expected to lead to rising pollution levels and unhealthy air quality for the Bay Area on Wednesday," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "While this *Winter Spare the Air* Alert is in place, wood burning is illegal to protect the health of all Bay Area residents."

Air quality in the Bay Area is forecast to be unhealthy due to weather conditions that will trap the smoke in the air close to the ground. During this *Winter Spare the Air Alert*, it is illegal for Bay Area residents and businesses to use their fireplaces, woodstoves and inserts, pellet stoves, outdoor fire pits, or any other wood-burning devices.

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 phone alerts at 1-800-430-1515

Wood smoke is the largest source of wintertime air pollution in the Bay Area and contains harmful pollutants such as particulate matter and carbon monoxide, as well as toxins which are 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 particulate pollution in the air.

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.

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