



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Bay Area experiencing smoke impacts from Northern California wildfires

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is advising Bay Area residents that smoke from the wildfires around California is impacting many parts of the region.

Northerly winds are moving smoke from fires in the northern part of the state into the Bay Area, causing hazy skies and the smell of smoke. Particulate pollution from the fires increased late Saturday, with high levels throughout much of the Bay Area Sunday morning. Particulate pollution levels are expected to remain elevated through today and may not ease until Monday.

In addition to smoke impacts, high temperatures, light winds and vehicle exhaust are expected to cause unhealthy levels of smog and the Air District has called a Spare the Air Alert for Sunday, August 16. The combination of smoke and smog may further aggravate symptoms associated with poor air quality.

In general, Bay Area residents in areas impacted by wildfire smoke are advised to:

- Limit outdoor activities to avoid unnecessary exposure
- Set air conditioning units and car vent systems to re-circulate
- Reduce exposure to smoky air by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed, if possible
- Go to www.baaqmd.gov to check real-time air quality

Smoke can irritate the eyes and airways, causing coughing, a scratchy throat and irritated sinuses. Elevated particulate matter in the air can trigger wheezing in those who suffer from asthma. Elderly persons, children and individuals with respiratory illnesses are particularly susceptible to elevated air pollution levels and should take extra precautions to avoid exposure.

The Air District will continue to monitor smoke impacts and issue additional advisories as conditions warrant.

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

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