



# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Air District issues another Spare the Air Smog Alert** *Smog and smoke expected to impact the Bay Area*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing its ninth Spare the Air Alert for smog in 2015.

**Air quality is forecast to be unhealthy again tomorrow, Monday, September 21.** A high pressure system over the region will produce high temperatures, clear skies and light winds across the Bay Area. These conditions, combined with motor vehicle exhaust, will produce smoggy skies. In addition to smog, smoke from the Valley Fire in Lake County could drift into the Bay Area, contributing to unhealthy air.

“Another hot, smoggy day is expected in the Bay Area and new wildfires have ignited throughout California, further contributing to air pollution,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “To lower pollution levels, the Air District is asking Bay Area residents to consider alternatives to driving alone on their Monday commute – taking transit, telecommuting and carpooling are great options.”

Nearly 40 percent of Bay Area smog pollution and greenhouse gases are from passenger vehicles. The single most effective way for residents to reduce smog pollution is to drive less. Air District survey results find that Bay Area employees are more likely to adopt alternatives to driving alone when encouraged to do so by their employer. Bay Area employers with 50 or more full-time employees are now required to offer commuter benefits to their employees. For more information about the Commuter Benefits Program, visit [511.org](http://511.org) and click on Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program.

Spare the Air Alerts are issued when ozone, or smog, pollution is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. Smog can cause throat irritation, congestion, chest pain, trigger asthma, inflame the lining of the lungs and worsen bronchitis and emphysema. Long-term exposure to ozone can reduce lung function. Ozone pollution is particularly harmful for young children, seniors and those with respiratory and heart conditions. When a Spare the Air Alert is issued, outdoor exercise should be done only in the early morning hours when ozone concentrations are lower.

To improve air quality, residents are encouraged to walk, bike, carpool or take transit instead of driving alone, not just on Spare the Air days, but every day. Residents can visit [www.stacommuetips.org](http://www.stacommuetips.org) to find a list of commute programs and incentives available where they live and work.

To find out when a Spare the Air Alert is in effect, residents can register for email AirAlerts at [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org), call 1(800) HELP-AIR, download the Spare the Air App or connect with Spare the Air on Facebook or Twitter.

There is no free transit tomorrow and there is no fireplace wood burning ban in place.

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 [sparetheair.org](http://sparetheair.org).

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