



NEWS

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Air District issues Spare the Air Smog Alert and afternoon Smoke Advisory

Region will be impacted by both high temperatures and smoke from Monterey County wildfire

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing its ninth Spare the Air Alert for smog in 2016.

Air quality is forecast to be unhealthy tomorrow, Monday, July 25. A high-pressure system is sitting over the region combined with smoke from a large fire in Monterey County will result in continued high temperatures into the upper 90s and bring smoke into the region as winds shift later today. These conditions combined with motor vehicle exhaust from traffic will generate unhealthy ozone accumulation in the region.

The smoke plume is expected to move into Santa Clara and southern Alameda counties late Sunday afternoon and persist through Monday.

“Once again, high temperatures combined with pollution from cars and trucks and smoke from wildfires are causing the Bay Area to experience unhealthy air,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “It’s now more important than ever for all of us to find alternatives to driving alone.”

This afternoon, the southern counties of the Bay Area may see smoke moving up from the Soberanes Fire burning in Monterey County. Residents are recommended to stay tuned to local news reports today and take appropriate precautions if the smoke plume shifts and moves into South Bay. Children, the elderly and people with respiratory conditions are the most susceptible to the impacts of elevated particulate matter due to smoke. If smoky conditions occur, it is recommended that residents close their windows and doors and put their air conditioning units on recirculate to prevent outside air from being drawn into their homes. Due to the high temperatures today, if residents do not have the ability to keep their homes cool without opening windows it is recommended they use fans to keep air circulating in their homes or consider visiting a destination with air conditioning to stay cool during the hottest part of the day.

The single most effective way for residents to reduce smog is to drive less or drive electric vehicles that do not produce air pollution. 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 and click on Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program.

Spare the Air Alerts are issued when ozone pollution is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. Ozone, or 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 carpool, bike, walk or take transit to work instead of driving alone, not just on *Spare the Air* days, but every day. The public is encouraged to consider an all-electric vehicle as their next vehicle purchase to help the region reduce the amount of gas powered vehicles that contribute to unhealthy smog. Residents can visit www.stacommutehints.org to find a list of commute programs 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, 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 wood burning ban in place.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baagmd.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.

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