



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 18, 2016

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Air District issues another Spare the Air Smog Alert *Commuters urged to find alternatives to driving alone*

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

Air quality has the potential to be unhealthy again tomorrow, Friday, August 19. Light winds, and smoke from wildfires in California are expected to cause unhealthy ozone, or smog, levels in the Bay Area. These conditions combined with motor vehicle exhaust from traffic can cause unhealthy ozone accumulation in the region.

“Ongoing smoke continues to impact air quality in the Bay Area,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Persistent drought and tree mortality has increased the intensity of wildfires in the region, and combined with our daily load of auto exhaust, is again causing unhealthy air quality.”

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.baqmd.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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