



NEWS

DATE:
December 20, 2016

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MEDIA ADVISORY

REMINDER - Winter Spare the Air Alert called again for December 21 *Use of wood-burning devices is prohibited*

SAN FRANCISCO – This is a reminder – yesterday, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District issued a two-day alert for today and Wednesday. The season's third *Winter Spare the Air Alert* is in effect for Wednesday, December 21, which bans burning wood, manufactured fire logs or any other solid fuel, both indoors and outdoors for 24 hours.

This is the third consecutive *Winter Spare the Air Alert* due to prevailing cold, calm weather conditions that trap smoke near the ground.

It is illegal for Bay Area residents and businesses to use their fireplaces, woodstoves, pellet stoves, outdoor fire pits or any other wood-burning devices during a *Winter Spare the Air Alert*. Exemptions are available for homes without permanently installed heating, where woodstoves or fireplaces are the only source of heat. Anyone whose sole source of heat is a wood-burning device must use an EPA-certified or pellet-fueled device that is **registered** with the Air District to qualify for an exemption. An open hearth fireplace no longer qualifies for an exemption.

The public must check before they burn during the Winter Spare the Air season, which runs from November 1 through February 28. The daily burn status can be found:

- On the Air District Web sites: www.baaqmd.gov or 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 or phone alerts at 1-800-430-1515
- Via the Spare the Air iPhone and Android Apps

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. For more information about Spare the Air, visit sparetheair.org.

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