

SMOKE ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 16, 2017 CONTACT: Tom Flannigan, 415.749.4900

Air District Issues Smoke Advisory

North Bay still impacted by heavy smoke, unpredictable air quality throughout rest of region

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing a smoke advisory for the North and East Bay areas.

Unhealthy air quality from the wildfires continues to plague the North Bay counties. Due to active wildfires and changing wind patterns, air quality throughout the Bay Area could be impacted for many days to come. Outside of the active fire areas, air quality will be variable and unpredictable.

It is important that Bay Area residents protect their health, especially in Napa, Sonoma and Solano counties. If possible, it is recommended that residents impacted by heavy smoke seek shelter in buildings with filtered air OR move outside the smoke impacted area until smoke levels subside.

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, emphysema or COPD. Elderly persons, children and individuals with respiratory illnesses are particularly susceptible to elevated air pollution levels and should take extra precautions to avoid exposure.

Check here for real-time air quality readings: <u>https://go.usa.gov/xnxJE</u>.

There is a chance for rain to develop across the Bay Area later this week, especially over the North Bay, which will help reduce smoke fine particle pollution.
 Wind Direction

 Wind Direction

Temporary PM_{2.5} monitors are set up in Rohnert Park, Petaluma, Sonoma, Napa and Cordelia. Data can been viewed at AirNow wildfire website:

https://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=topics.smoke_wildfires.

Airborne ash will further impact fire ravaged areas for many months. Please refer to all health advisories issued in disaster recovery areas when re-entering burn zones.

The <u>Bay Area Air Quality Management District</u> is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, and <u>YouTube</u>.

###