



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 24, 2019

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Air District issues Spare the Air Alert today for wildfire smoke

Smoke impacts from Kincade Fire expected

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing the twentieth Spare the Air Alert for smoke today, Thursday, October 24, for the entire the region.

The Air District is closely monitoring smoke impacts from the Kincade Fire in Sonoma County and the northern portion of the Bay Area is experiencing smoke impacts. Additional impacts may spread across the Bay Area this evening and into tomorrow. Residents should follow evacuation orders and instructions from local health officials.

“Air quality in the region is being impacted by the Kincade fire today, and unfortunately, this will likely continue in the coming days,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Bay Area Air District. “It is critical for residents to follow evacuation orders and instructions from their local public health officials to protect their health.”

Spare the Air Alerts are issued when ozone or particulate matter pollution is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. If the smell of smoke is present or visible, it is important that Bay Area residents protect their health by avoiding exposure. If possible, stay inside with windows and doors closed until smoke levels subside. It is also recommended that Bay Area residents set air conditioning units and car vent systems to re-circulate to prevent outside air from moving inside.

Smoke can irritate the eyes and airways, causing coughing, a dry 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: <https://bit.ly/2p7UFgs>.

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.

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

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