WHAT ARE SPARE THE AIR ALERTS?

SPARE THE AIR ALERTS are triggered when air quality is forecast to be unhealthy and wood burning may be illegal. Check before you burn by calling 1-877-4NO-BURN (1-877-466-2876) or visit www.sparetheair.org. You can also sign up for text, email or phone notifications on the website.

File a wood smoke or general air quality complaint at baaqmd.gov/complaints

Residents can receive a Violation Notice for burning when a Spare the Air Alert is in effect. It is always illegal to burn garbage or other prohibited materials in a fireplace or wood stove, or to have a fire that emits excessively dense smoke from the chimney for an extended period at a time.

KEEP YOUR HOME HEAT EFFICIENT

- Install ceiling insulation
- Caulk around all windows, doors, pipes, and any opening into the house
- Install weather-stripping around doors and windows
- Close the damper tightly when heater is not in use
- Close off unused rooms if you do not have central heating

HOME WEATHERIZATION TIPS:

Environmental Protection Agency
EPA.gov/burnwise

California Public Utilities Commission
CPUC.ca.gov

PG&E
Search "energy reduction and weatherization" at PGE.com

For more information, contact the Air District at 415-749-4999.

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

www.baaqmd.gov

West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project
know which way the wind blows

www.woeip.org

STOP BURNING IN OUR COMMUNITY

All Burning Negatively Impacts You and Your Neighbors

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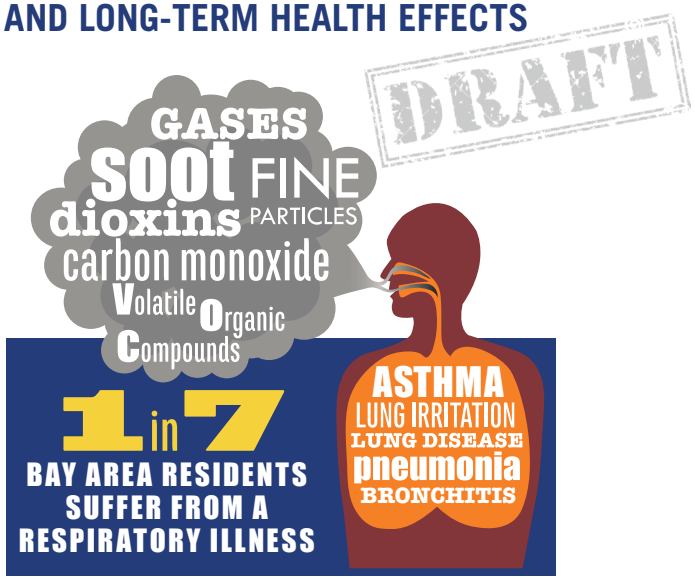
BREATHING SMOKE HAS IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM HEALTH EFFECTS



Short-term symptoms include:

- Shortness of breath
- Coughing
- Wheezing
- Irritation of eyes, nose, and throat
- Aggravated asthma

Long-term symptoms include:

- Decreased lung function
- Chronic bronchitis
- Disease
- Asthma

Children, older adults, and people with heart or lung disease are at a greater risk.

- Wood smoke contains air pollutants such as carbon monoxide, benzene, formaldehyde, and fine particulates also known as $PM_{2.5}$.
- These tiny particles pass deep into the lungs and can cause serious health effects.

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR BURNING IS ILLEGAL WHEN A SPARE THE AIR ALERT—BURN BAN IS IN EFFECT.

INDOOR BURNING

Fireplaces do not efficiently heat your home. The Air District encourages residents to use efficient heating devices (electric heater, high-efficiency heat pump).
If you must burn, follow these guidelines:

- Store wood in a dry, covered area and only burn dry hardwood such as oak or cherry, which produce less smoke. Burning wet wood can create excessive smoke, which can cause negative health impacts.
- Keep your fireplace and wood stove clean and well maintained. Regularly remove ashes from your fireplace to maintain a proper airflow.
- Burn clean, hot fires with plenty of air.

Warm air traps cold air and smoke near ground level and impacts the health of you and your neighbors. Up to 40 percent of pollution in winter months can come from wood smoke causing a brown haze and health effects in the surrounding community.

OUTDOOR & BACKYARD BURNING

Recreational burning in backyard fire pits and chimeneas can cause a smoky haze in the neighborhood which has negative health impacts on you, your neighbors and the region's air quality.

- Notify your neighbors if you plan to start a recreational fire.
- All recreational fires need to be constantly attended until the fire is completely extinguished.
- To minimize health and environmental impacts from recreational burning, it is critical to practice burning cleanly, safely, and responsibly.
- BBQs and fires for cooking are allowed.

IT IS ALWAYS ILLEGAL TO BURN PAINTED OR TREATED WOOD, PARTICLE BOARD, PLASTICS, WRAPPING PAPER, GREEN WASTE, OR OTHER GARBAGE. ILLEGAL BURNING CAN RESULT IN A VIOLATION.