



Advisory

For Immediate Release
December 18, 2006

Contact: Karen Schkolnick
415 749 4900

Spare the Air TONIGHT! Second Consecutive Advisory

Another night of poor air quality is forecast as temperatures dip to record-breaking lows throughout the Bay Area. To protect public health, **the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) is issuing a *Spare the Air Tonight* Advisory for this evening, Monday, December 18, through Tuesday morning.** The Air District is asking Bay Area residents **to not burn wood and to limit their driving**, in order to help minimize particulate emissions. This is the **eighth *Spare the Air Tonight*** advisory of the season.

The tiny particles in wood smoke and vehicle exhaust can cause serious health problems. Due to their small size they can be inhaled deep into the lungs. These microscopic particles are only 2.5 microns in size or smaller, roughly 25 times smaller than the diameter of a human hair. Small particle pollution is especially dangerous for the young, the elderly, and for people with respiratory or cardiovascular disease.

In the wintertime, particulate pollution is most highly concentrated at night and in the early morning hours. On winter evenings, the earth cools the air close to the ground, which creates an inversion layer of warmer air above. When there is no wind, pollution trapped under this lid of warm air can build up rapidly to unhealthy levels. During the winter the angle of the sun is so shallow that the earth does not radiate enough heat in the early morning hours to lift the inversion layer, so particulate pollution persists until mid-morning.

There is no free transit during the *Spare the Air Tonight* season.

For more information call 1-800 HELP AIR
or visit our website: www.sparetheair.org

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