



BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

HEALTH ADVISORY, SPARE THE AIR ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 12, 2017

CONTACT: Media Office - 415.749.4900

Health Advisory & Spare the Air Alerts in effect through weekend

Air District delivering 20,000 N95 masks to impacted counties

SAN FRANCISCO – Air quality in the Bay Area continues to be very unhealthy, especially in the fire-impacted counties of Napa, Sonoma and Solano. Even outside of the active fire areas, air quality is still heavily-impacted by smoke and unpredictable. Due to active wildfires and changing wind patterns, air quality could be impacted for many days to come.

People in heavy smoke-impacted areas who must remain in the area should, at minimum, use an N95 mask to help minimize breathing fine particles. The Air District is delivering 20,000 N95 masks to counties in fire-impacted areas. Masks have been or will be delivered to Sonoma, Napa, Solano and Marin counties and will be distributed to locations such as evacuation centers.

N95 masks, when used properly, help filter fine particulates in wildfire smoke. Users should read and follow the manufacturer's directions carefully when using an N95 mask to maximize effectiveness.

It is imperative 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 buildings with filtered air such as public libraries and shopping malls OR move to areas outside the region less impacted by wildfire smoke until smoke levels subside.**

In other parts of the Bay Area, residents should protect themselves from the impacts of heavy smoke. If residents see or smell smoke in their immediate area, they should stay indoors, if possible, with windows and doors closed and air conditioning units on recirculate to avoid drawing outside air into buildings. Children, the elderly and those with respiratory conditions such as asthma, COPD, emphysema and heart disease are most impacted.

It is recommended that parents and school administrators check air quality readings before allowing children outdoors while air quality is unhealthy. Check here for real-time air quality readings <https://go.usa.gov/xnxhb>.

For information about the safe cleanup of fire ash, visit:

<https://www.arb.ca.gov/carpa/toolkit/emerg-response/safe-cleanup-fire-ash.pdf>.

Because of the serious air quality conditions in parts of the Bay Area, we are asking residents to avoid adding additional air pollution by curtailing air polluting activities such as wood burning, lawn mowing and leaf blowing, driving, and barbecuing.

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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