



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Communications Office – 415.749.4900

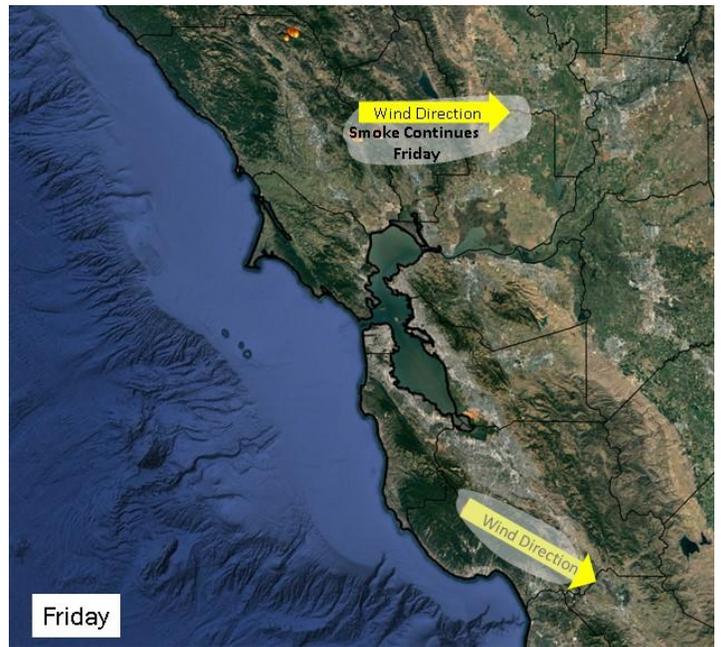
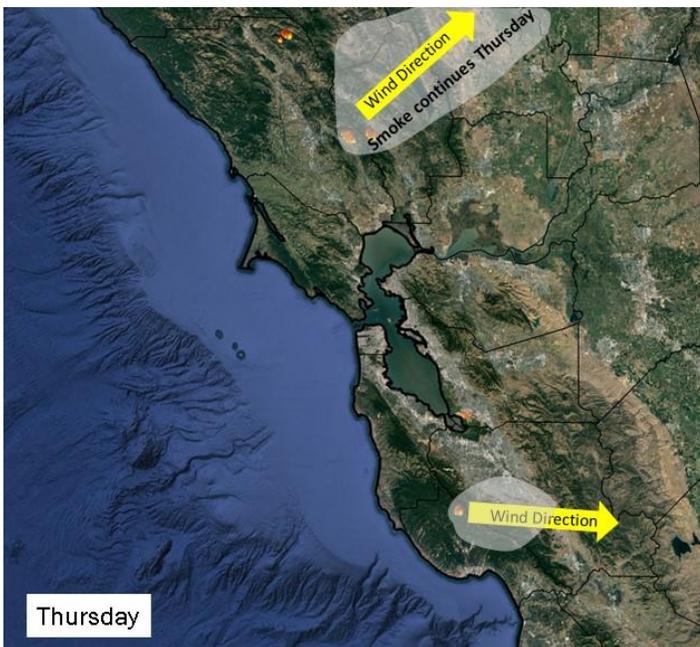
Bay Area air quality improves today, Health Advisory & Spare the Air Alert Lifted

Air quality conditions should hold through Friday

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is lifting the Health Advisory & Spare the Air Alert due to significantly improved air quality conditions from favorable wind patterns and increased fire containment. However, unhealthy air quality will still be present in the immediate vicinity of actively burning fires.

There is the potential for smoke impacts this weekend due to shifting winds and significantly warmer temperatures that may cause increased fire danger. Check here for real-time air quality readings: <https://go.usa.gov/xnxJE>.

“Much of the Bay Area is breathing cleaner air thanks to the incredible efforts of firefighters and winds pushing smoke out of the area,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Bay Area residents should still be vigilant about air quality, however, because fires are still burning in the region and weather patterns can shift unexpectedly.”



It is important that Bay Area residents protect their health, especially in Napa, Sonoma and Solano counties. 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.

The Air District is working in collaboration with federal, state, and local agencies to address the proper removal of ash from the thousands of destroyed properties. **Ash and debris from destroyed structures may contain toxic cancer-causing substances** such as asbestos and lead which are hazardous to human health and therefore require special handling.

For more information about debris and ash removal visit:

- **Sonoma County:** <http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Public-Safety/News/JIC-Debris-Removal-October-17-8pm/>
- **Napa County:** <http://www.countyofnapa.org/FireDebrisandHazardousWasteCleanUp/>

Temporary PM_{2.5} monitors are set up in Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Petaluma, Sonoma, Napa and Cordelia. Data can be viewed at AirNow wildfire website:
https://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=topics.smoke_wildfires.

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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Air District Communications Office
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