



NEWS

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Air District issues first 2017 Spare the Air Smog Alert *Commuters urged to find alternatives to driving alone*

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing its first Spare the Air Alert for smog in 2017.

Air quality is forecast to be unhealthy tomorrow, Wednesday, May 3. Light winds combined with high temperatures and exhaust from motor vehicles are expected to cause unhealthy ozone accumulation in the Bay Area. **There is no free transit tomorrow and there is no wood burning ban in place.**

“Although it is still spring, hot summerlike temperatures combined with exhaust from traffic on Bay Area roads will cause smog and hazy skies,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Climate change causes more extreme temperatures and is closely linked to air quality. We must make changes now such as taking transit, carpooling or working from home, to not only benefit the climate, but the air we breathe.”

This first smog alert coincides with national Air Quality Awareness Week which runs through May 5. Residents are encouraged to reduce air pollution every day by rethinking their commute and avoiding driving alone.

Spare the Air Alerts are issued when ozone pollution is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. Ozone, or smog, can cause throat irritation, congestion, chest pain, trigger asthma, inflame the lining of the lungs and worsen bronchitis and emphysema. Long-term exposure to ozone can reduce lung function. Ozone pollution is particularly harmful for young children, seniors and those with respiratory and heart conditions. When a *Spare the Air Alert* is issued, outdoor exercise should be done only in the early morning hours when ozone concentrations are lower.

Find out more about what the Air District is doing to address climate change in the nine-county Bay Area. *Spare the Air-Cool the Climate* is a blueprint for tackling regional air pollution and climate pollutants while improving the health of Bay Area residents for the next several decades. Check out this video about our bold vision on climate change at <https://youtu.be/p9Bxh1rlqrl>.

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 (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. For more information about Spare the Air, visit sparetheair.org.

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