



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 30, 2017

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Air District issues 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 tenth *Spare the Air Alert* for smog in 2017.

Air quality is forecast to be unhealthy tomorrow, Thursday, August 31. A high-pressure ridge will strengthen over the region beginning tomorrow, leading to hot temperatures inland and light, offshore winds. These conditions, coupled with smoke from wildfires near the California-Oregon border are expected to cause unhealthy ozone levels in the South and East Bay regions. **There is no free transit tomorrow and there is no wood burning ban in place.**

“Extreme heat starting late this week is expected to cause unhealthy air quality in the Bay Area likely through the Labor Day weekend,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “We need to change how we get around and stop driving alone to reduce our pollution levels and protect our health.”

Bay Area residents impacted by the heat should follow the advice of local health officials to find cooling centers in their area.

Spare the Air Alerts are called 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 called, outdoor exercise should be done only in the early morning hours when ozone concentrations are lower. Residents are encouraged to reduce air pollution every day by rethinking their commute and avoiding driving alone.

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/p9BxhIrlqrl>.

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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