



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Air District issues fifth consecutive Spare the Air smog alert

Extreme heat, light winds expected to trigger unhealthy air quality

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

Air quality is forecast to be unhealthy again tomorrow, Monday, September 4. A high-pressure ridge is over the region, leading to extremely hot, triple-digit temperatures inland and light, offshore winds. These conditions, coupled with smoke from Northern California and Oregon wildfires, are expected to cause unhealthy ozone levels in the East and South Bay areas. **The Air District has also issued a smoke advisory for the Labor Day weekend. There is no free transit tomorrow and there is no wood burning ban in place.**

“Another day of extreme heat and unhealthy air quality is expected on Labor Day,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “We’re asking the public to protect their health by avoiding outdoor activities during the hottest part of the day and to help reduce air pollution by carpooling or taking transit instead of driving alone.”

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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