



NEWS RELEASE

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Air District issues Spare the Air smog alert

Residents urged to find alternatives to driving alone

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

Air quality is forecast to be unhealthy tomorrow, Wednesday, September 27, 2017. Very warm to hot temperatures and light winds, followed by a late arriving sea breeze, will heat up Bay Area emissions and cause unhealthy ozone levels in the Eastern zone. **There is no free transit tomorrow and there is no wood burning ban in place.**

“Cars and trucks on Bay Area roads are the leading cause of smog and greenhouse gases in the region,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “There are many alternatives to driving alone and we must make the change to more sustainable modes of transportation to protect air quality, public health and our way of life here in the Bay 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 to address climate change.

To find out when a Spare the Air Alert is in effect, residents can [register for email AirAlerts](#), call 1(800) HELP-AIR, download the Spare the Air App or connect with Spare the Air on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#). For more information, visit [sparetheair.org](#).

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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