

HEALTH ADVISORY, SPARE THE AIR ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 17, 2017
CONTACT: Communications Office – 415.749.4900

Health Advisory & Spare the Air Alerts in effect through Wednesday

North Bay still impacted by heavy smoke, unpredictable air quality throughout rest of region

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing a Health Advisory & Spare the Air Alert through Wednesday due to unpredictable air quality in the Bay Area.

Unhealthy air quality from the wildfires continues to plague the North Bay counties as well as other parts of the Bay Area. Due to active wildfires and changing wind patterns, air quality throughout the Bay Area could be impacted for many days to come. Outside of the active fire areas, air quality will be variable and unpredictable.

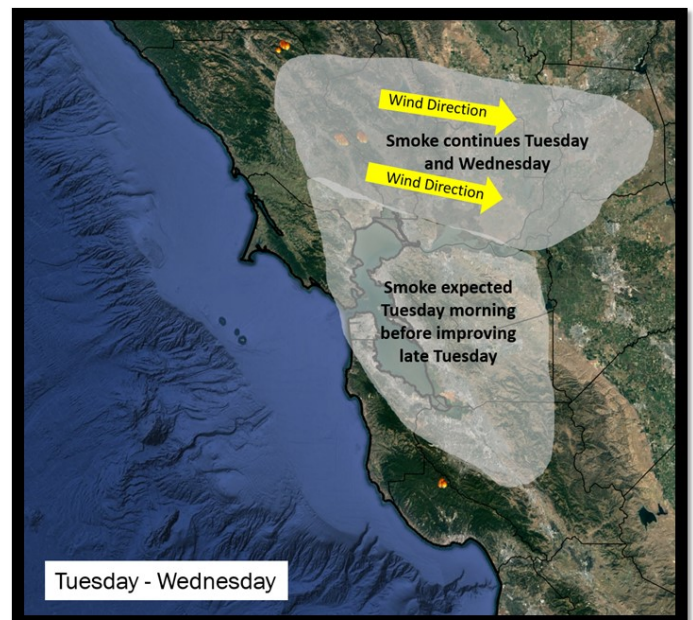
“Unfortunately, smoky conditions are persisting in the North Bay and at times, throughout the Bay Area,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “We’re asking Bay Area residents to continue to reduce any activities that contribute to our already unhealthy air quality.”

It is important that Bay Area residents protect their health, especially in Napa, Sonoma and Solano counties. If possible, it is recommended that residents impacted by heavy smoke seek shelter in buildings with filtered air OR move outside the smoke impacted area until smoke levels subside.

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.

In the future, it is expected that wildfires and extreme weather-related events may persist as we continue to deal with the effects of climate change.

Check here for real-time air quality readings:
<https://go.usa.gov/xnxJE>.



There is a chance for rain to develop across the Bay Area later this week, especially over the North Bay, which will help reduce smoke fine particle pollution.

Temporary PM_{2.5} monitors are set up in Rohnert Park, Petaluma, Sonoma, Napa and Cordelia. Data can be viewed at AirNow wildfire website:

https://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=topics.smoke_wildfires.

Airborne ash will further impact fire ravaged areas for many months. Please refer to all health advisories issued in disaster recovery areas when re-entering burn zones.

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](#).

#

Air District Communications Office
375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105
[Air District Homepage](#) | [News Releases](#)