



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Tom Flannigan - 415.749.4900

Air District issues Spare the Air smog alert for today & tomorrow

Residents urged to find alternatives to driving alone

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing the 17th and 18th *Spare the Air Alert* for smog in 2017. A Spare the Air smog alert has never been called this late in the calendar year.

Air quality is forecast to be unhealthy today, Thursday, October 26, and tomorrow, Friday, October 27, 2017. The unhealthy air quality is not related to the recent wildfires. Light winds and warm temperatures, combined with auto exhaust, are expected to cause unhealthy ozone levels in the East Bay and Santa Clara Valley regions. **There is no free transit tomorrow and there is no wood-burning ban in place.**

“This week’s hot temperatures are the latest in the season we have ever experienced with real public health consequences,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Making changes in our everyday activities – especially in our daily commutes by shifting towards teleworking, transit and carpooling regularly will help us cut the largest source of smog-forming pollution in the Bay Area.”

Spare the Air Alerts are called when ozone pollution is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. Climate change raises temperatures creating conditions that convert pollution into unhealthy smog. 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, choosing electric lawn and garden equipment over gas powered and not using lighter fluid on barbecues.

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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Air District Communications Office
375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105
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