

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 7, 2018 **CONTACT:** Walter Wallace, 415.519.4628

Air Quality Advisory in effect in the Bay Area for Sunday & Monday

Bay Area impacted by smoke from Branscomb Fire

SAN FRANCISCO – An air quality advisory will be in effect beginning Sunday, October 7, through Monday, October 8, in the Bay Area.

The Bay Area is expected to experience smoke impacts from the *Branscomb Fire* near Suisun City. Strong winds are expected to blow smoke into the East and South Bay regions. Due to changing wind patterns, air quality throughout the Bay Area could continue to be impacted through Monday evening.

If the smell of smoke is present, it is important that Bay Area residents protect their health by avoiding exposure. If possible, stay inside with windows and doors closed with air conditioning units on recirculate to avoid drawing smoky air inside your home. If you are impacted by smoke and unable to stay inside your home consider moving to a location with clean filtered air such as a public library, movie theater or shopping mall to protect yourself from the smoke.

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.

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

The <u>Bay Area Air Quality Management District</u> is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, and <u>YouTube</u>.

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