



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 17, 2018

CONTACT: Kristine Roselius, 415.749.4900

Air District issues seventh Spare the Air Alert for smog

Unhealthy smog levels worsened by smoke in the Bay Area

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing its seventh Spare the Air Alert for smog this year in addition to the ongoing **Air Quality Advisory** for smoke due to wildfires.

Air quality is forecast to be unhealthy tomorrow, Saturday, August 18, 2018, due to pollution from millions of automobiles in the region and smoke from wildfires. There is no free transit tomorrow. Wood burning is highly discouraged but not banned.

“Smog pollution could reach unhealthy levels in the Bay Area unless we take action to reduce our driving and cut the emissions from the millions of motor vehicles on our roadways,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “We are urging the public to avoid driving and stay alert to the changing smoke conditions in the area to protect their health and the health of all Bay Area residents.”

Spare the Air Alerts for smog are issued 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 issued, outdoor exercise should be done only in the early morning hours when ozone concentrations are lower.

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 until smoke levels subside. Set air conditioning units and car vent systems to re-circulate to prevent outside air from moving inside.

Smoke can irritate the eyes and airways, causing coughing, a scratchy throat and irritated sinuses. Elevated particulate matter in the air from smoke 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> for fine particulate pollution levels from wildfire smoke and check here for ozone levels: <https://go.usa.gov/xUwV3>.

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 combat 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 social media.

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](#)