



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 3, 2018
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Air District asks public to not burn wood today to reduce air pollution

Wood burning strongly discouraged but not illegal

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is asking Bay Area residents to not burn wood in their fireplaces or woodstoves today to prevent air quality from becoming unhealthy.

A delay in onshore winds has contributed to increased particulate pollution levels in the Bay Area today. If these conditions continue, there may be an exceedance of the federal health standard.

A Winter Spare the Air Alert is NOT in effect today and wood burning is not illegal, but strongly discouraged.

"Even with rain in the forecast today, air quality is worse than expected and we're asking Bay Area residents to not burn wood to prevent air quality from deteriorating further," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Bay Area Air District. "We appreciate the public's support in helping to protect our families and neighbors from the hazards of wood smoke pollution."

Like cigarette smoke, wood smoke contains fine particles and carcinogenic substances that make the air unhealthy to breathe. Wood smoke is the major source of air pollution in the Bay Area in the wintertime and is especially harmful to children, the elderly and people with respiratory conditions.

Bay Area residents can find out if a Winter Spare the Air Alert is in effect by:

- **NEW text alerts! To sign up, text the word "START" to the number 817-57**
- Calling 1-877-4NO-BURN
- Visiting www.sparetheair.org or www.baaqmd.gov
- Signing up for automatic e-mail AirAlerts at www.sparetheair.org
- Signing up for automatic phone alerts by calling 1-800-430-1515
- Downloading the Spare the Air iPhone and Android apps.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area region. For more information about Spare the Air, visit www.sparetheair.org.

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