

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 27, 2019 CONTACT: Ralph Borrmann, 415-760-0285 (cell)

Air quality advisory for smoke in the Bay Area through Sunday

Hazy skies and smoke impacts beginning Saturday evening from wildfires in Southern Oregon

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing an air quality advisory for smoke for the entire Bay Area region through Sunday, July 28.

Beginning early Saturday evening through Sunday, the Bay Area will experience air quality impacts as smoke from the Milepost 97 Fire in southern Oregon filters into the region. Over the past several days the fire has burned nearly 9000 acres. There is currently no information on containment from the Oregon Department of Forestry. Satellite data shows some smoke from the fire moving both over the Pacific Ocean and into the Central Valley. Currently, it appears that impacts will be minimal: hazy conditions and a faint smell of smoke in elevated areas.

A Spare the Air Alert is currently in place for ozone at this time. The Air District will be closely monitoring air quality throughout the region for smoke impacts from this wildfire.

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 dry 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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