



NEWS RELEASE

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Air District extends Spare the Air Alert through Saturday for wildfire smoke

Smoke impacts from Kincade Fire expected to spread throughout region this afternoon

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is extending a Spare the Air Alert for smoke through tomorrow, Saturday, October 26, for the entire the region.

The Air District is closely monitoring smoke impacts from the Kincade Fire in Sonoma County and the northern portion of the Bay Area is currently experiencing smoke impacts. Additional smoke impacts are expected to spread across the region starting this afternoon as smoke mixes down to the surface.

While smoke impacts are expected to spread across the Bay Area, air quality is not expected to exceed the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups range in most of the region. Heavier smoke impacts are expected closest to the fire. High temperatures present additional health concerns.

“If the smell of smoke is present in the air, residents should protect their health and avoid smoke exposure by staying indoors,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Bay Area Air District. “It is important to remember that protecting yourself from heat should take precedence over unhealthy air quality. If temperatures are too hot indoors, visit an air-cooling center, library, movie theater or other building that provides filtered air.”

Spare the Air Alerts are issued when ozone or particulate matter pollution is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. If the smell of smoke is present or visible, 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. It is also recommended that Bay Area residents 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://bit.ly/2p7UFgs>.

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 Facebook or Twitter.

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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