



NEWS RELEASE

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Air District reminds residents of potential fire danger this Fourth of July

Fireworks are a fire hazard and can elevate pollution levels in neighborhoods

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is encouraging Bay Area residents to have a healthy and safe Fourth of July and reminds them to avoid potential fire danger by not setting off personal fireworks displays this Thursday.

Fireworks can cause an unhealthy spike in air pollution and increase the risk of brush or wildfires. Smoke, dust and soot from fireworks and sparklers create elevated levels of particulate matter close to the ground making it difficult for people to breathe by triggering asthma attacks, coughing, wheezing and eye irritation. Sensitive groups, including those with respiratory issues, heart or lung disease, along with children and the elderly, should limit their exposure.

“Fire danger throughout California is significant following the wet winter and spring we experienced,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Wildfires are now a significant air pollution hazard in the Bay Area. We are reminding residents to help us all Spare the Air this Fourth of July and avoid setting fireworks in your neighborhood.”

Residents are encouraged to enjoy planned public fireworks displays and avoid creating excess smoke and ash in neighborhoods.

The Bay Area region often exceeds federal air quality standards on the evening on July 4th and morning of July 5th due to neighborhood fireworks displays. Safe and sane fireworks, like those purchased at pop up fireworks stands, contain metal salts used to produce colors, but also cause excessive smoke and can spark wildfires in neighborhoods.

Increased air pollution from fireworks impacts people and pets around homes. Fireworks have the potential to increase the risk of wildfire or house fires further increasing unhealthy smoke.

Check your local newspapers or city government websites to find public fireworks displays in your community.

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.

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