

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Ralph Borrmann - 415.760.0285 (cell)

Air District issues second Spare the Air smog alert in a row

Commuters urged to find alternatives to driving alone

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing the second Spare the Air Alert for smog in 2019.

Air quality is forecast to be unhealthy again tomorrow, Monday, June 10. Hot inland temperatures, light winds and motor vehicle exhaust from millions of motor vehicles on Bay Area roads will continue to cause unhealthy ozone accumulation in the region. There is no free transit tomorrow and there is no wood burning ban in place.

"If we reduce traffic by driving with others, we can reduce the number one cause of summertime air pollution," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "Air quality improves when we rethink our commute and share the ride by carpooling, taking transit, or telecommuting instead of driving alone."

Spare the Air Alerts 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.

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/p9Bxhlrlqrl.

To find out when a Spare the Air Alert is in effect, residents can sign up for text alerts by texting the word "START" to 817-57, 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 <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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