

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 28, 2019 **CONTACT:** Walter Wallace, 415.749.4900

Air District calls another Spare the Air Alert for Tuesday due to wildfire smoke

Smoke impacts from Kincade Fire & local fires expected in the Bay Area

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing another Spare the Air Alert for smoke tomorrow, Tuesday, October 29, for the entire region.

Smoke from the Kincade Fire is expected to move south into the greater Bay Area today. Air quality will likely be impacted from the Kincade Fire through mid-day tomorrow. There may also be smoke from local fires, like the Suisun Marsh fire, that could further impact air quality tomorrow. Later tomorrow, offshore winds will help move smoke from the Kincade Fire back over the Pacific Ocean, but local fires could still contribute to unhealthy air quality.

"Unfortunately, we are expecting another day of hazy skies and unhealthy air quality on Tuesday," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Bay Area Air District. "With strong winds in the forecast and the potential for more local fires, it is important that residents protect their health by staying indoors with windows and doors closed to avoid exposure to the smoke."

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, 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. If indoor air quality is compromised, an air-cooling center, library, movie theater or other building that has filtered air can provide relief from the smoke. 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 sign up for text alerts, text the word "START" to the number 817-57 or visit www.baaqmd.gov/txtalert.

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 <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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