



## NEWS RELEASE

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# Air District extends Spare the Air Alert for smoke through Friday

*Bay Area wakes up to dark, orange skies from smoke*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is extending the Spare the Air Alert for wildfire smoke through Friday, September 11. This will be the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive Spare the Air Alert called.

Smoke from the many fires throughout California will continue to impact the Bay Area and produce unhealthy air quality in the region through Friday. **Thick smoke is currently covering California and offshore. This morning, smoke is causing skies to look dark or orange across the Bay Area due to particles scattering blue light and only allowing yellow-orange-red light to reach the surface. It is illegal for Bay Area residents and businesses to use their fireplaces, wood stoves, pellet stoves, outdoor fire pits or any other wood-burning devices during a Spare the Air Alert for particulate pollution.**

“As this morning’s eerily dark and orange skies demonstrate, smoke from the many fires that continue to burn throughout the Bay Area and other parts of California are continuing to impact the region,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Although much of this smoke is aloft, it can settle down to ground level as weather conditions fluctuate, and residents should protect their health by staying indoors when the smell of smoke is present.”

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. If temperatures are too hot indoors, visit an air-cooling center or other building that provides filtered air. 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.

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](http://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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