



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** September 14, 2020

**CONTACT:** Aaron Richardson, 415.760.0242

### **Air District extends Spare the Air Alert for smoke through Wednesday**

*Wildfire smoke continues to create unhealthy air quality*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is extending the Spare the Air Alert for wildfire smoke through Wednesday, September 16. This will be the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive Spare the Air Alert called.

Smoke from the many wildfires throughout California, Oregon and Washington continues to impact the Bay Area and is forecast to produce unhealthy air quality in the region through Wednesday. **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.**

“Smoke from the wildfires raging in California and Oregon continues to smother the Bay Area and create widespread unhealthy air quality,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “As we head into the week, residents should continue to take measures to protect their health, such as staying indoors as much as possible to avoid exposure to 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 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. For wildfire safety tips, please visit <https://bit.ly/2Zpziq4>.

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](#).

# # #

---

*Air District Communications Office*  
*375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105 - (415) 749-4900*  
[Air District Homepage](#) | [News Releases](#)