



NEWS RELEASE

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Spare the Air Alert extended through Monday

Air quality impacts from Glass Fire and smog

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is extending the Spare the Air Alert for wildfire smoke from the Glass Fire in Napa County and for smog through Monday, September 28, which bans burning wood, manufactured fire logs or any other solid fuel, both indoors and outdoors.

Wildfire smoke from the Glass Fire in Napa County that began overnight will continue to impact the North Bay. Smoke combined with high inland temperatures and vehicle exhaust is also expected to cause unhealthy smog, or ozone, accumulation in the Bay Area, mainly in the South Bay and East Bay. 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.

“Unfortunately, we are still in the midst of wildfire season on top of a heat wave,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “We must all remain vigilant to protect our health and the health of our communities. Driving less can help reduce smog build up and staying indoors when smoke is present is crucial to protecting our health.”

Spare the Air Alerts are issued when ozone or particulate matter 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.

If smoke reaches unhealthy levels, 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 allow. If temperatures are too hot indoors, visit an air-cooling center or other building that provides filtered air. It is also recommended that those impacted by smoke set their 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 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 [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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