



NEWS RELEASE

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Air District issues Spare the Air Alert for smog for Thursday

Residents urged to find alternatives to driving alone

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing the second Spare the Air Alert in 2021 for smog for Thursday, June 17.

Air quality is forecast to be unhealthy **tomorrow, Thursday, June 17**. Light winds and hot temperatures along with motor vehicle exhaust will create unhealthy concentrations of ozone, or smog. The Santa Clara Valley may also experience smoke impacts from wildfires in Arizona and the Southwest, although the smoke is aloft and is not expected to impact air quality.

“As many Bay Area residents return to their workplaces, unhealthy air and traffic congestion will become more frequent if we don’t find a better way of getting to work than driving,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “We can all help reduce air pollution by working remotely, taking transit or biking or walking instead of driving alone.”

Spare the Air Alerts are issued when ozone pollution is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. Ozone 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.

Bay Area residents can find out if a Spare the Air Alert is in effect by:

- Signing up for text alerts. To sign up, text the word “START” to the number 817-57
- Visiting www.sparetheair.org or www.baaqmd.gov
- Signing up for e-mail AirAlerts at www.sparetheair.org/alerts
- Signing up for phone alerts at www.sparetheair.org/alerts
- Downloading the Spare the Air, Bay Area iPhone or Android app
- Connecting with Spare the Air on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](http://www.baaqmd.gov) 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](#). For more information about Spare the Air, visit sparetheair.org.

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