

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 7, 2021 CONTACT: Walter Wallace, 415.519.4628

Air quality advisory for smoke extended through Sunday

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is extending an air quality advisory for wildfire smoke through tomorrow, **Sunday, August 8**.

Smoke from the McFarland, Monument, Dixie and River Complex fires is expected to continue to impact the Bay Area, particularly at higher elevation locations in the North Bay and East Bay. The smoke is aloft above 1,500 feet and is not expected to cause widespread unhealthy air quality across the Bay Area.

Smoky, hazy skies will be visible across the Bay Area and smoke may impact localized regions such as Napa, Sonoma and Solano counties, as well as inland portions of the East Bay including Livermore and Concord, and higher elevation locations. Onshore winds are expected to become stronger during the afternoon on Saturday and Sunday. The threat of smoke will gradually decrease by the start of the work week. The Air District will be closely monitoring air quality throughout the region for smoke impacts from the fires.

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 temperatures allow. 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 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: <u>http://baaqmd.gov/highs</u>.

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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