

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 1, 2021 CONTACT: Tina Landis, 415.940.3585

Air District issues air quality advisory for Thursday & Friday

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing an air quality advisory for wildfire smoke for Thursday, September 2, and Friday, September 3.

Smoke from wildfires in northern California is predicted to cause hazy and smoky skies across the Bay Area on Thursday and Friday. Pollution levels are not expected to exceed federal health standards and **no Spare the Air Alert is in effect**. However, smoke may mix to the surface at times causing intermittent and isolated pockets of elevated pollution levels. Air quality is expected to be in the good to moderate range on the Air Quality Index. The Air District will closely monitor air quality throughout the region for smoke impacts from wildfires.

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 air quality readings: baaqmd.gov/highs.

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 <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u> and <u>YouTube</u>.

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