

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 15, 2021 **CONTACT:** Aaron Richardson, 415.760.0242

Air District extends air quality advisory through Thursday

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is extending an air quality advisory for wildfire smoke through Thursday, September 16.

Wildfires across Northern California continue to produce smoke, which is being transported towards the Bay Area. As a result, hazy and smoky conditions are predicted through Thursday. Smoke is forecast to stay mostly aloft, and air quality is expected to be in the moderate AQI category. Pollution levels are not expected to exceed federal health standards **and no Spare the Air Alert is in effect**. 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 Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

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