



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Walter Wallace, 415.519.4628

**Air District asks residents to not light personal fireworks this Fourth of July**

*Fireworks are a wildfire hazard and can elevate pollution levels*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is encouraging Bay Area residents to have a healthy and safe Fourth of July by not setting off fireworks to reduce smoke and wildfire risks.

Fireworks can cause an unhealthy spike in air pollution. Smoke from exploding fireworks results in elevated levels of particulate matter close to the ground, making it difficult for people to breathe and may trigger asthma attacks, coughing, wheezing and eye irritation. Sensitive groups, including those with respiratory issues, heart or lung disease, along with children and the elderly, should limit their exposure.

“Many in the Bay Area are excited to celebrate the Fourth of July, especially since we missed the chance last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “This Fourth of July, it is critical we leave the fireworks to the professionals and enjoy local fireworks displays to help reduce air pollution and wildfire risks during these extreme drought conditions.”

The Bay Area region often exceeds federal air quality standards in the evening on July 4th and morning of July 5th due to neighborhood fireworks displays. Safe and sane fireworks, like those purchased at pop up fireworks stands, contain metal salts used to produce colors, but also cause excessive smoke.

Increased air pollution from fireworks impacts people and pets. Fireworks also have the potential to increase the risk of brush, wildfires or house fires that cause damage and further smoke impacts.

Check your local newspapers or city government offices to locate public fireworks displays in your community.

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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*Air District Communications Office*  
375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105  
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