



AIR QUALITY ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 21, 2022

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Air District issues air quality advisory for Saturday

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing an air quality advisory for wildfire smoke for today, Saturday, May 21.

Smoke from the Owens Fire is expected to impact the North Bay, northern East Bay, San Francisco and the Peninsula but **pollutant levels are not expected to exceed the national 24-hour standard. A Spare the Air Alert is not in effect and air quality is expected to be in the moderate range.** Smoky, hazy skies may be visible and the smell of smoke may be present through this afternoon. Onshore winds are expected to move cleaner air into the region later today.

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: <http://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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