



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 15, 2022

**CONTACT:** Walter Wallace, 415.519.4628

### **Air District issues Spare the Air Alert for smog for Tuesday**

*High temperatures & wildfire smoke expected to increase smog build up*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing the third Spare the Air Alert of 2022 for smog for Tuesday, August 16. The Bay Area will also continue to have smoke impacts from the Six Rivers Lightning Complex Fire in Humboldt and Trinity counties.

Air quality is forecast to be unhealthy **tomorrow, Tuesday, August 16**. Wildfire smoke combined with hot inland temperatures and vehicle exhaust are expected to cause unhealthy smog, or ozone, accumulation in the Bay Area. Smoke from Northern California wildfires is expected to continue to impact the region creating hazy and smoky skies.

“High temperatures, wildfire smoke and tailpipe exhaust are expected to impact our air quality on Tuesday,” said Veronica Eady, senior deputy executive officer of policy and equity at the Air District. “We can all do our part to help reduce air pollution every day by finding alternatives to driving alone - such as working remotely or taking transit – to keep air quality healthier for all Bay Area residents.”

Spare the Air Alerts are issued when ozone pollution is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. Ozone can cause throat irritation, congestion and chest pain. It can trigger asthma, inflame the lining of the lungs and worsen bronchitis and emphysema. Long-term exposure can reduce lung function. Ozone pollution is particularly harmful for young children, seniors and those with respiratory and heart conditions. When a Spare the Air Alert is issued, outdoor exercise should be undertaken only in the early morning hours when ozone concentrations are lower.

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. If temperatures are too hot indoors, visit an air-cooling center or other building that provides filtered air. 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 dry 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](https://baaqmd.gov/highs).

To find out when a Spare the Air Alert is in effect, residents can register for email AirAlerts at [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org), call 1(800) HELP-AIR, download the Spare the Air App or connect with Spare the Air on Facebook or Twitter.

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](#). For more information about Spare the Air, visit [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org).

# # #

---

*Air District Communications Office*  
375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105 - (415) 749-4900  
[Air District Homepage](#) | [News Releases](#)