

# SPARE THE AIR ALERT

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## **Air District issues Spare the Air Alert through Thursday**

*Advisory upgraded to Spare the Air Alert due to deterioration of air quality*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing a Spare the Air Alert due to wildfire smoke for **today, Wednesday, September 20, and tomorrow, Thursday, September 21**, which bans burning wood, manufactured fire logs or any other solid fuel, both indoors and outdoors.

The air quality advisory for smoke that was in place has been upgraded to a Spare the Air Alert due to the deterioration of air quality conditions from wildfires in Northern California and Oregon. These wildfires have generated a large smoke plume covering the entire Bay Area. Air quality has degraded to mostly 'unhealthy for sensitive groups' and 'unhealthy' Air Quality Index levels in most of the Bay Area. It is illegal for Bay Area residents and businesses to use their fireplaces, wood stoves, pellet stoves, outdoor fire pits or any other wood-burning devices during a Spare the Air Alert for particle pollution.

The Air District will be closely monitoring air quality throughout the region for smoke impacts from these fires.

Spare the Air Alerts are issued when ozone or particulate matter pollution is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. If the smell of smoke is present or visible, 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 are too hot indoors, visit an air-cooling center or other building that provides filtered air. It is also recommended that Bay Area residents set 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: <https://fire.airnow.gov/>.

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).

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