Bay Area Air District

Air Quality Advisory

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Air District issues air quality advisory for smoke from Somersville brush fire for Wednesday evening

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air District is issuing an air quality advisory due to smoke from the Somersville brush fire in Antioch.

Smoke from this brush fire is expected to impact air quality in eastern Contra Costa County on Wednesday evening**.** Conditions can change rapidly and the amount and location of smoke at ground level is hard to predict. The public can check for real-time smoke pollution levels in their local area with the U.S. EPA's Fire and Smoke Map. The Air District will continue to monitor conditions to see if impacts will continue on Thursday.

Smoky, hazy skies may be visible, the smell of smoke is possible and air quality may become unhealthy as of **Wednesday evening.**

Wildfire smoke contains fine particulate matter and other harmful pollutants. Exposure to wildfire smoke is unhealthy, even for short periods of time.

It is important that Bay Area residents protect their health by avoiding exposure. If possible, and temperatures allow stay inside with windows and doors closed until smoke levels subside. Residents can also reduce their exposure to smoke by setting their car vent systems to re-circulate to prevent outside air from moving inside. The use of indoor air filtration or going to a Clean Air Center or other location with filtered air, such as a library or mall, can also help reduce smoke exposure.

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.

The Air District will be closely monitoring air quality throughout the region for smoke impacts. Pollutant levels are not expected to exceed the national 24-hour health standard and therefore,

no Spare the Air Alert is in effect. **Check the U.S. EPA's Fire and Smoke Map to see if smoke is affecting your area at: https://fire.airnow.gov/.**

The Bay Area Air District is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via Facebook, X, Instagram and YouTube.

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