



NEWS

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2003 Summer Smog Season Comes to a Close

Bay Area Meets Federal One-Hour Ozone Standard

The Bay Area is concluding its 2003 summertime smog season with only a single excess of the federal one-hour ozone standard. The excess occurred in Livermore, one of 22 air-monitoring stations maintained by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District). The remaining 21 monitoring stations had zero excesses of the standard. Because of the low number of excesses in the past three years, the Bay Area now meets the federal criteria to be in attainment of the federal one-hour ozone standard.

"The Bay Area's on-going programs to reduce emissions from industry, along with the state's efforts to reduce vehicular emissions has paid off with cleaner air for all Bay Area residents," said William C. Norton, the Air District's Executive Officer. "We want to thank all Bay Area residents for supporting our air quality efforts. Every emission reduction counts and minimizes the impact of poor air quality on health. Now, we need to move forward and further improve air quality," Norton said. Over the past 35 years, excesses of the federal one-hour standard have fallen from a high of 65 days in 1969 to one day this year (see attached table).

The Bay Area also had seven excesses of the new federal eight-hour ozone standard. These readings are averaged over three years to gauge attainment of the federal eight-hour standard. One air monitoring station, located in San Martin in the Santa Clara Valley, presently violates the eight-hour standard by a small margin. Finally, there were 19 days exceeding the more stringent California one-hour ozone standard during the 2003 summer. Other air quality highlights include:

- Overall reductions of 63% in volatile organic compounds and 40% in oxides of nitrogen, the two key ingredients in ozone formation, since 1980.
- Twenty-five days in Livermore with temperatures at or above 95 degrees in 2003, roughly the same number as in 1998. There were 8 excesses of the federal one-hour ozone standard at Livermore in 1998, compared to one this year.

(more)

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- The Bay Area and San Diego had the fewest number of excesses of the one-hour ozone standard for major metropolitan areas in California. Each air basin exceeded the one-hour standard on one day.
- Ten *Spare the Air* advisories were issued in 2003, up from seven in 2002.
- 8.3% of Bay Area residents responded to *Spare the Air* requests by driving less, avoiding consumer products that pollute and postponing using gasoline powered lawn mowers, up from 7.7% in 2002.
- Ridership increased by up to 16% on the *Wheels* bus system in the Tri-Valley area. A pilot program funded the Air District and the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority this summer offered free transit on *Spare the Air* days.
- 2,225 *Spare the Air Employers* notified their employees of *Spare the Air* requests and educated their employees on air quality issues, reaching over one million employees in the workplace.
- Twenty Bay Area municipalities joined the *Clean Air Consortium*, pledging to reschedule the use of gasoline powered lawn and garden equipment, postpone painting and refuel vehicles at the end of the day.

(See page 3 for chart on "Bay Area Excesses of the National One-Hour Ozone Standard, 1960 through 2003" for a complete record of excesses in the Bay Area).

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Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Excesses of the National One-Hour Ozone Standard, 1968 through 2003*

Air Monitoring Stations	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	
North Counties																																					
Napa			1	0	1	1	0	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
San Rafael	0	2	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Santa Rosa			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sonoma						0	5	1	0		2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Vallejo			1	1	6	3	1	3	5	1	2	0	1	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Central Bay																																					
Oakland		1	4	5	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Richmond	3	0	3	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0							
San Francisco	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
San Pablo																													0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
East District																																					
Bethel Island														0	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	
Concord						4	1	1	8	2	11	0	3	2	1	4	3	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	1	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	
Fairfield		0	1	1	0	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Livermore	44	53	23	13	4	17	21	8	8	3	2	3	2	2	1	8	7	4	3	3	4	2	1	1	0	1	2	7	8	0	6	2	2	0	2	1	
Pittsburg	1	2	4	3	4	0	0	1	6	0	6	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
South Bay																																					
Fremont	6	31	14	14	12	4	6	7	4	0	10	2	6	3	3	7	5	4	2	4	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Hayward						0	8	9	7	0	5	1	4	0	0	3	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Mountain View					3	3	0	4	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	5	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Redwood City	9	5	5	4	3	2	2	1	2	1	0	1	2	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
San Leandro	6	8	7	8	2	11	2	3	2	0	2	1	4	0	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Santa Clara																																					
Gilroy							4	5	9	0	4	0	7	1	0	5	3	2	0	4	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0					
Los Gatos					1	2	13	6	1	3	22	9	13	2	0	12	13	4	0	4	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
San Jose - 4th St.	21	11	8	0	3	8	18	8	7	3	12	4	3	1	0	9	7	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	**	
San Jose East						18	15	6	0		17	4	6	4	3	5	4	2	1	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
San Jose-S.Carlos																							1	0	0	1	0	**									
Sunnyvale																																		0	0	0	
SanJose-Jackson																																				0	
San Martin																												1	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0
District Days	56	65	35	27	13	24	29	23	22	7	34	15	18	8	5	21	22	8	5	14	5	4	2	2	2	3	2	11	8	0	8	3	3	1	2	1	

* Data for 2003 is preliminary, **Station(s) closed