



# Advisory

**For Immediate Release  
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**Contact: Karen M. Schkolnick**  
415.749.4900 (work)  
415.816.5353 (cell)

## *Spare the Air* TONIGHT! Air Quality Forecast to be Unhealthy

**The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) is issuing a *Spare the Air Tonight* Advisory for this evening, Monday, November 26, 2007.** Air quality is forecast to be unhealthy tonight, and the Air District is asking Bay Area residents **to not burn wood and to limit their driving** tonight and tomorrow morning.

*There is no free transit during the Spare the Air Tonight season.*

This evening, the Air District is asking residents not to burn wood in their fireplaces and wood stoves. The fine particles in wood smoke can cause serious health problems. They can be inhaled deep into the lungs, and are especially dangerous for the very young, the elderly, and for people with respiratory or cardiovascular disease. Studies have linked wood smoke exposure to bronchitis, asthma, heart disease, and a range of other respiratory ailments.

This is the second Spare the Air Tonight advisory issued this winter. The Air District issues a Spare the Air Tonight advisory whenever air quality is expected to exceed federal health standards. Last year, after extensive research into the health effects of fine particle pollution, the U.S. EPA revised the federal 24-hour average fine particulate standard. This standard was exceeded on 20 days last winter.

"Wood smoke is a significant public health concern," said Air District Executive Officer Jack P. Broadbent. "Wood burning is the largest single source of wintertime particulate pollution in the Bay Area, and the easiest for residents to control."

The Air District is currently circulating a draft regulation to reduce particulate pollution from wood stoves and fireplaces. The District has conducted a series of public workshops to review and discuss the draft regulation, and the final meeting is scheduled for today, Nov. 26, 6-8 pm, at the Robert Livermore Community Center, Cresta Blanca Room, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore, CA, 94550.

For more information please visit our websites at: [www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov) and [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org)

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