



# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT: Kristine Roselius**  
415.749.4900

**Fourth consecutive *Winter Spare the Air Alert* called for Saturday, December 10**  
*Use of wood-burning devices is prohibited*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing the season's fourth *Winter Spare the Air Alert* for Saturday, December 10, which bans burning wood, manufactured fire logs or any other solid fuel, both indoors and outdoors for 24 hours.

"Breathing wood smoke has real and immediate health impacts," said Jean Roggenkamp, deputy air pollution control officer of the Air District. "Bay Area residents must continue to refrain from burning wood while this *Winter Spare the Air Alert* is in effect, to protect their health and the health of their neighbors."

Air quality in the Bay Area is forecast to be unhealthy due to weather conditions that will trap the smoke in the air close to the ground. During this *Winter Spare the Air Alert*, it is illegal for Bay Area residents and businesses to use their fireplaces, woodstoves and inserts, pellet stoves, outdoor fire pits, or any other wood-burning devices.

The public must check before they burn during the *Winter Spare the Air* season which runs from November 1 through February 29. The daily burn status can be found:

- On the Air District Web sites: [www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov) or [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org)
- Via the toll-free hotline 1-877-4-NO-BURN (complaints can also be filed via the hotline)
- By signing up for AirAlerts at [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org) or phone alerts at 1-800-430-1515

Wood smoke is the largest source of wintertime air pollution in the Bay Area and contains harmful pollutants such as particulate matter and carbon monoxide, as well as toxins which are linked to increased cancer rates in adults. In the winter, wood smoke from the 1.4 million fireplaces and wood stoves in the Bay Area contributes about one-third of the harmful particulate pollution in the air.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District ([www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov)) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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