



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 24, 2016

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Air District issues Spare the Air Smog Alert

Residents urged to find alternatives to driving alone

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing its 23rd Spare the Air Alert for smog in 2016.

Air quality is forecast to be unhealthy tomorrow, Sunday, September 25. Hot temperatures and light winds, combined with motor vehicle exhaust from traffic, will create unhealthy ozone accumulation in the region.

“When temperatures rise, air quality becomes unhealthy due to the amount of pollution released into the air daily,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Regularly reducing the number of cars on Bay Area highways will help reduce pollution and help prevent unhealthy air events.”

Spare the Air Alerts are issued when ozone pollution is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. Ozone, or smog, can cause throat irritation, congestion and chest pain. It can also trigger asthma, inflame the lining of the lungs and worsen bronchitis and emphysema. Long-term exposure to ozone can reduce lung function. Ozone pollution is particularly harmful for young children, seniors and those with respiratory and heart conditions. When a *Spare the Air Alert* is issued, outdoor exercise should be done only in the early morning hours when ozone concentrations are lower.

To improve air quality, residents are encouraged to carpool, bike, walk or take transit to work instead of driving alone - not just on *Spare the Air* days, but every day. The public is encouraged to consider an all-electric vehicle as their next vehicle purchase to help the region reduce the number of gas-powered vehicles that contribute to unhealthy smog. Residents can visit www.stacommuetips.org to find a list of commute programs available where they live and work.

To find out when a *Spare the Air Alert* is in effect, residents can register for email AirAlerts at www.sparetheair.org, call 1(800) HELP-AIR, download the *Spare the Air* app or connect with *Spare the Air* on Facebook or Twitter.

There is no free transit tomorrow and there is no wood burning ban in place.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. For more information about Spare the Air, visit sparetheair.org.

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