



NEWS

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Be mindful during the holidays about fireplace use
Burning wood has air quality impacts. Never burn wrapping paper

SAN FRANCISCO – What many Bay Area residents see as a holiday tradition can actually be a cause of air pollution in your home and neighborhood during this winter season.

Smoke from wood-burning fireplaces and stoves emits harmful air pollution that reduce local air quality and can cause respiratory conditions in many individuals, especially children, seniors and those with heart or lung conditions.

Decorative wrapping paper is manufactured using synthetic inks, plastic film, metallic finishes and other chemicals which release toxic and carcinogenic compounds into the air when burned. The smoke is released into your home and neighborhood where family and friends will inhale it in. It is always illegal to burn trash, scrap wood, and papers at all times of the year.

Air pollution problems from wood burning becomes especially acute on cold, still nights when cool air sinks close to the ground and a layer of warm air above acts like a lid, trapping pollutants below where we breathe them in.

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.

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