



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2017

CONTACT: Sarah Zahedi

415.470.1584

Air District issues Spare the Air Smog Alert

Commuters urged to find alternatives to driving alone

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing its second Spare the Air Alert for smog in 2017.

Air quality is forecast to be unhealthy tomorrow, Monday, May 22. High pressure over Northern California is expected to produce very warm temperatures inland in the mid 90s. Light winds in the morning, followed by a weak and delayed afternoon sea breeze, are expected to cause unhealthy ozone levels in parts of the East Bay and the Santa Clara Valley of the Bay Area. **There is no free transit tomorrow and there is no wood burning ban in place.**

“Climate change will increasingly cause temperature spikes that lead to poor air quality,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “To lessen the impact of climate change, reduce smog and protect public health, it’s essential that Bay Area residents take transit, carpool or work from home instead of driving alone.”

Spare the Air Alerts are called when ozone pollution is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. Ozone, or smog, can cause throat irritation, congestion, chest pain, 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 called, outdoor exercise should be done only in the early morning hours when ozone concentrations are lower. Residents are encouraged to reduce air pollution every day by rethinking their commute and avoiding driving alone.

Find out more about what the Air District is doing to address climate change in the nine-county Bay Area. *Spare the Air-Cool the Climate* is a blueprint for tackling regional air pollution and climate pollutants while improving the health of Bay Area residents for the next several decades. Check out this video about our bold vision on climate change at <https://youtu.be/p9BxhIrlqrl>.

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.

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.

###