



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 23, 2018

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### **Air District issues Spare the Air alert for smoke today & tomorrow**

*Residents urged to avoid evening out door exercise*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> *Spare the Air Alerts* this season. This unusual later afternoon alert is being called due to poor air quality conditions developing throughout the region as the result of smoke from wildfires sitting out over the Pacific Ocean and blowing into the region.

**Air quality is forecast to be unhealthy today, Thursday, August 23, and tomorrow, Friday, August 24, 2018. The unhealthy air quality is due to wildfires in California, Oregon and Canada.** Air quality deteriorated quickly this afternoon due to large plumes of smoke over the Pacific Ocean mixing in with fog and being carried into the Bay Area.

“Meteorological conditions changed rapidly today causing significant wildfire smoke impacts throughout the Bay Area,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Please stay tuned to air quality forecasts during this extended wildfire season. We must all stay vigilant to protect our health.”

Spare the Air Alerts are called when air pollution is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. Climate change has contributed to longer wildfire seasons which impacts air quality. Smoke can cause throat irritation, congestion, chest pain, trigger asthma, inflame the lining of the lungs and worsen bronchitis and emphysema. Smoke 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 limited. Residents are encouraged to reduce air pollution every day by rethinking their commute and avoiding driving alone, choosing electric lawn and garden equipment over gas powered and not using lighter fluid on barbecues.

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 to address climate change.

To find out when a Spare the Air Alert is in effect, residents can [register for email AirAlerts](#), call 1(800) HELP-AIR, download the Spare the Air App or connect with Spare the Air on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#). For more information, visit [sparetheair.org](#).

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

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