



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 26, 2018

CONTACT: Tom Flannigan 415.749.4900

Spare the Air smog season begins as warmer weather nears *Commuters encouraged to reduce driving, find alternatives to driving alone*

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is announcing the launch of the 2018 Spare the Air summer smog season on Monday, April 30.

The millions of cars on our roadways each day remain the largest source of smog pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in the Bay Area. The Spare the Air campaign encourages Bay Area residents to drive less and look for ways to share, shorten or change their commutes to help reduce smog, traffic and gridlock in the region.

“Our changing climate is impacting the quality of our air,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “We are asking everyone in the Bay Area, commuters, employers, local governments and individuals to identify actions that will reduce their daily air pollution impact and take steps to reduce that pollution. Encourage and promote ride sharing, install a cool roof, reduce energy consumption, recycle, compost and reduce waste – it will take all of us to make daily changes to help reduce smog forming chemicals from building up in our communities.”

The launch of the Spare the Air smog season coincides with the start of the 2018 Air Quality Awareness Week, a nationwide campaign to increase air quality awareness and inspire people to take steps to reduce their contribution to air pollution.

Bay Area employees are encouraged to check with their human resources office to learn what commuter benefits are available to them through their employer. The Bay Area Commuter Benefits program requires all employers in the Air District’s jurisdiction with 50 or more full-time employees to offer commuter benefits to their workers.

During the summer months, Spare the Air Alerts are issued when smog, or ozone pollution, is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. Ozone can cause throat irritation, congestion and chest pain. It can trigger asthma, inflame the lining of the lungs and worsen bronchitis and emphysema. 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 limited to the early morning hours when ozone concentrations are lower.

Know when a Spare the Air Alert is in effect:

- Via text alerts by texting the word “START” to 817-57

- By connecting with Spare the Air on Facebook or Twitter
- On the www.sparetheair.org website
- By calling 1(800) HELP-AIR
- By signing up for AirAlerts at www.sparetheair.org
- By downloading the Spare the Air iPhone or Android App

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](#). For more information about Spare the Air, visit www.sparetheair.org.

#

*Air District Communications Office
375 Beale Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105
[Air District Homepage](#) | [News Releases](#)*