



NEWS RELEASE

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Air District asks residents to not light personal fireworks this Fourth of July

Fireworks are a wildfire hazard and can elevate pollution levels

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is encouraging Bay Area residents to have a healthy and safe Fourth of July by not setting off fireworks to reduce smoke and wildfire risk.

Fireworks can cause an unhealthy spike in air pollution. Smoke from exploding fireworks results in elevated levels of particulate matter close to the ground, making it difficult for people to breathe and may trigger asthma attacks, coughing, wheezing and eye irritation. Sensitive groups, including those with respiratory issues, heart or lung disease, along with children and the elderly, should limit their exposure.

“We encourage Bay Area residents to have a safe and healthy holiday by attending official fireworks displays, in lieu of using personal fireworks, this Fourth of July weekend,” said Sharon Landers, interim executive officer of the Air District. “Personal fireworks not only increase wildfire risk during extreme drought conditions, but also create an unhealthy breathing environment in the surrounding neighborhoods.”

The Bay Area region often exceeds federal air quality standards on the evening of July 4th and morning of July 5th due to neighborhood fireworks displays. Safe and sane fireworks, like those purchased at pop-up fireworks stands, contain metal salts used to produce colors, but also cause excessive smoke.

Increased air pollution from fireworks impacts people and pets. Fireworks also have the potential to increase the risk of brush fires, wildfires or house fires that cause damage and further smoke impacts.

Check your local newspapers or city government offices to locate public fireworks displays in your community.

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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