



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Air District issues this year's first Spare the Air Alert for smog**

*Commuters urged to find alternatives to driving alone*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is issuing the first Spare the Air Alert of 2023 for smog on Thursday, April 27.

Air quality is forecast to be unhealthy **tomorrow, Thursday, April 27**. Light winds and hot temperatures, along with motor vehicle exhaust, will create elevated concentrations of ozone, or smog

“As temperatures heat up and our roadways become increasingly crowded, air quality is expected to be unhealthy,” said Dr. Philip Fine, executive officer of the Air District. “This Spare the Air Alert highlights the need to reduce cars on our roadways and find alternatives to driving alone such as taking transit, working remotely, walking or biking.”

Spare the Air Alerts are issued when 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. Long-term exposure 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 issued, outdoor exercise should be undertaken only in the early morning hours when ozone concentrations are lower.

To find out when a Spare the Air Alert is in effect, residents can register for email AirAlerts at [www.sparetheair.org](http://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](http://www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](https://twitter.com/baaqmd), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/baaqmd) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/baaqmd). For more information about Spare the Air, visit [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org).

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