

# SPARE THE AIR ALERT

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## **Air District extends Spare the Air Alert through Saturday**

*Unhealthy air quality continues in the region*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is extending a Spare the Air Alert through **tomorrow, Saturday, September 23**, due to continued wildfire smoke impacts across the region.

Smoke from wildfires in Oregon and Northern California are expected to impact the Bay Area through Saturday. These wildfires continue to generate smoke which is being transported into the Bay Area. Air quality is expected to be in the ‘unhealthy for sensitive groups’ range on the U.S. EPA’s Air Quality Index throughout the Bay Area. **It is illegal for Bay Area residents and businesses to use their fireplaces, wood stoves, pellet stoves, outdoor fire pits or any other wood-burning devices during a Spare the Air Alert for particle pollution.**

The Air District will be closely monitoring air quality throughout the region for smoke impacts from wildfires.

Spare the Air Alerts are issued when ozone or particulate matter pollution is forecast to reach unhealthy levels. When air quality is unhealthy, it is important that Bay Area residents protect their health by avoiding exposure. If possible, stay inside with windows and doors closed until smoke levels subside. If temperatures are too hot indoors, visit an air-cooling center or other building that provides filtered air. It is also recommended that Bay Area residents set air conditioning units and car vent systems to re-circulate to prevent outside air from moving inside.

Smoke can irritate the eyes and airways, causing coughing, a dry scratchy throat and irritated sinuses. Elevated particulate matter in the air can trigger wheezing in those who suffer from asthma, emphysema or COPD. Elderly persons, children and individuals with respiratory illnesses are particularly susceptible to elevated air pollution levels and should take extra precautions to avoid exposure.

The public can check their local air quality on the U.S. EPA’s Fire and Smoke Map at <https://fire.airnow.gov/>.

To find out when a Spare the Air Alert is in effect, the public 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](#) 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](http://www.sparetheair.org).

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