

# 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 unhealthy spikes 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 people with respiratory issues or heart disease, along with children and the elderly, should limit their exposure.

“This Fourth of July, we’re asking Bay Area residents to safely celebrate Independence Day by refraining from setting off personal fireworks, which increase the risk of wildfires and create unhealthy air pollution in our communities,” said Dr. Philip Fine, executive officer of the Air District. “Enjoying official fireworks displays can help keep fire danger down and enable our friends and neighbors to breathe easier as we celebrate the Fourth of July holiday.”

At the local level, personal fireworks can cause unhealthy buildup in particulate matter pollution over the July 4 holiday. “Safe and sane” fireworks, like those purchased at pop-up fireworks stands, contain metal salts used to produce colors and can 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 create 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](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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