



latest air quality data for your area by searching your location at [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov).

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has issued a Winter Spare the Air Alert asking residents to avoid adding additional air pollution activities such as lawn mowing, leaf blowing, driving, and barbecuing. Burning wood, firelogs, pellets, or any other solid fuels in your fireplace, woodstove, or other wood-burning device is illegal during a Winter [Spare the Air Alert](#).

Residents may have questions about using masks to help with protection from wildfire smoke. The most important thing you can do is to stay indoors as much as possible when you smell or see smoke in the air. If you work outdoors or prolonged outdoor activity is unavoidable, and there is heavy smoke, certain masks (for example, properly fitted N-95 masks) can protect against harmful exposure. Masks such as the N-95 are not effective for untrained users and may be more harmful than helpful for people with lung or heart conditions. Employees should work with their employers for direction on when/how to use N-95 masks. Bandanas and typical surgical masks DO NOT protect against wildfire smoke particles.

More Information:

[Real time air quality](#) from United States Environmental Protection Agency Air Now [Wildfire Safety Tips](#) are available from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

[Information on masks](#) for those who expect significant exposure to smoke from the California Department of Public Health

Air quality forecasts and health advisories from state [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#)

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