



News from: **Oakland Fire Department**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 9, 2017

Smoke Advisory and Red Flag Warning Issued for the Bay Area – Oakland Fire Department Provides Tips to Stay Safe

Oakland, CA — The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) issued a smoke advisory today due to the wildfires in Napa and Sonoma counties. In addition, a red flag warning issued by the National Weather Service remains in effect until 5 am Tuesday, October 10, 2017. Use extreme caution and terminate use of open flame or spark producing equipment in dry grass and brush areas.

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Smoke can irritate the eyes and airways, which could lead to coughing, a scratchy throat and irritated sinuses. Large amounts of particulate matter in the air can trigger wheezing in those who suffer from asthma, emphysema or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Oakland Fire Department (OFD) advises that persons with heart or lung diseases, elderly persons or young children should do the following:

- Avoid activities that increase indoor air pollution, such as cigarette smoking, burning candles, fireplaces, or using gas stoves.
- Follow the advice of your doctor or healthcare provider about medicines and your respiratory management plan if you have asthma or another lung disease. Consider evacuating if you have trouble breathing. Call your doctor for advice if your symptoms worsen.
- Do not rely on dust masks for protection as they cannot protect your lungs from wildfire smoke.
- Minimize outdoor activities to avoid unnecessary exposure if you smell smoke.
- Set air conditioning units and car vent systems to recirculate to prevent outside air from moving inside.
- Reduce exposure to smoky air by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed, if possible.
- Stay tuned to local media for changes in smoke or weather conditions. OFD recommends that residents sign-up for emergency notifications through www.acalert.org.

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RED FLAG WARNING ISSUED

The National Weather Service issues Red Flag Warnings to alert fire departments of the onset, or possible onset, of critical weather and dry conditions that could lead to rapid or dramatic increases in wildfire activity. Firefighters will raise red flags at fire stations to warn residents of extreme fire weather, as warnings are issued by the National Weather Service.

A Red Flag Warning is issued for weather events which may result in extreme fire behavior that will occur within 24 hours. A Red Flag Warning is the highest alert. During these times extreme caution is urged by all residents, because a simple spark can cause a major wildfire. Here are a list of do's and don'ts for Red Flag Warnings:

DO: Be alert and report any small fires immediately by calling 9-1-1. Be prepared to provide information on the fires exact location.

DO: Have a plan for gathering family members, pets and valuables in case an approaching wildfire requires evacuation.

DO: Always mow grass before 10 AM when grass has the most moisture.

DO: Place power tools and vehicles on paved or dirt areas only.

DO: Use extra caution with charcoal and gas grills. Only use barbeques in a clear area, away from dry grass or brush. Make sure coals are cold before disposing of them.

DO: Obey park or trail closure signs and any other restrictions (such as no campfires, barbeques or smoking). As a result of the Red Flag Warning, the use of barbeques is prohibited in all City of Oakland Parks.

DO NOT: Discard cigarettes or other smoking materials on roadsides or dry grass.

DO NOT: Use fireworks. Fireworks are illegal in the City of Oakland.

STAY UP TO DATE ON EMERGENCIES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

The public is encouraged to subscribe to AC Alert to receive emails and text messages. The system allows subscribers to provide up to five locations, such as a school, home, work and an elder dependent's address. That way, subscribers will receive updates when an emergency alert impacts one of their self-identified locations.

AC Alert is a unified emergency notification system for Alameda County residents, businesses and visitors. An AC Alert subscription is free, and all residents and business owners are strongly encouraged to sign up. For more information about this system and to find out how to participate, please visit www.acalert.org.