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## **Air District asks public not to light firecrackers and fireworks or burn wood over Lunar New Year holiday**

*Stagnant weather conditions to trap smoke at ground level*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air District is asking the public not to light fireworks or burn wood over the Lunar New Year holiday to keep air quality from becoming unhealthy.

Air quality is expected to be moderate throughout the Bay Area this week. However, the sharp increase in neighborhood fireworks during Lunar New Year celebrations can significantly impact localized areas and neighborhoods. A high-pressure system over the Bay Area is expected to create an inversion layer, which traps pollutants near the ground. **A Spare the Air Alert is NOT in effect and wood burning is not illegal. However, personal fireworks, firecrackers and wood burning are strongly discouraged.**

Fireworks and firecrackers can cause unhealthy spikes in air pollution and create excess smoke and ash in neighborhoods. Smoke from exploding firecrackers and fireworks can make it difficult for people to breathe and trigger asthma attacks, coughing and wheezing.

Like cigarette and wildfire smoke, wood smoke contains carcinogenic substances such as particulate matter, benzene and formaldehyde, which are harmful when inhaled. Wood smoke is the major source of air pollution in the Bay Area in the wintertime and is especially harmful to children, the elderly and people with respiratory conditions.

The [Bay Area Air 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 [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

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