

**RULE 11-18**

# Understanding Health Risk Assessments

**PROTECTING BAY AREA COMMUNITIES FROM TOXIC AIR POLLUTION**

## What is a Health Risk Assessment?

A **Health Risk Assessment** (HRA) evaluates the potential health risks from exposure to toxic air pollutants emitted by facilities like refineries, metal finishers, and auto body shops.

HRAs help us understand how emissions from industrial sources may affect the health of nearby residents, workers, and sensitive populations — especially in overburdened communities.

## Why Does the Air District Require HRAs Under Rule 11-18?

The Air District requires HRAs as part of our Rule 11-18 **Facility Risk Reduction Program** to:

- **Identify and reduce toxic emissions**
- **Protect public health**, especially in communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution
- **Comply with state air toxic regulations**  
(AB 2588 Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program)

**IDENTIFY AND REDUCE TOXIC EMISSIONS****PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH****COMPLY WITH STATE AIR TOXIC REGULATIONS**

## When is an HRA Required?

An HRA is required when a facility reports emissions that may pose elevated health risks, based on air toxics data inventories.

## How Does the HRA Process Work Under Rule 11-18?

- 1. Updating Facility's Emissions Inventory**  
The Air District reviews and finalizes detailed air toxics inventories annually.
- 2. Determining Prioritization Score**  
The Air District determines a score for each facility based on emissions inventories, ranking facilities by the level of air toxics they emit.
- 3. HRA Required Based on Prioritization Score**  
If the prioritization score is greater than or equal to 10, we may require a full HRA.
- 4. Conducting the HRA and Public Review**
  - Approved methods and models are used to estimate cancer and non-cancer health risks to nearby residents, workers, and sensitive populations.
  - The public can review and comment on HRAs.
  - The Air District finalizes HRAs.

### 5. Risk Reduction and Public Review

- If the risk is above the risk action levels, facilities must create and implement a **Risk Reduction Plan**.
- The public can review and comment on Risk Reduction Plans.
- The Air District must review and approve Risk Reduction Plans.

- The Air District must approve the plan.
- The facility must reduce emissions within 5 years, as required by law.

## What Happens if a Facility Poses a High Risk?

If an HRA shows risks **above the risk action levels**:

- The facility must submit a **Risk Reduction Plan**.
- The public can review and comment on the plan.

## Clean Air for All

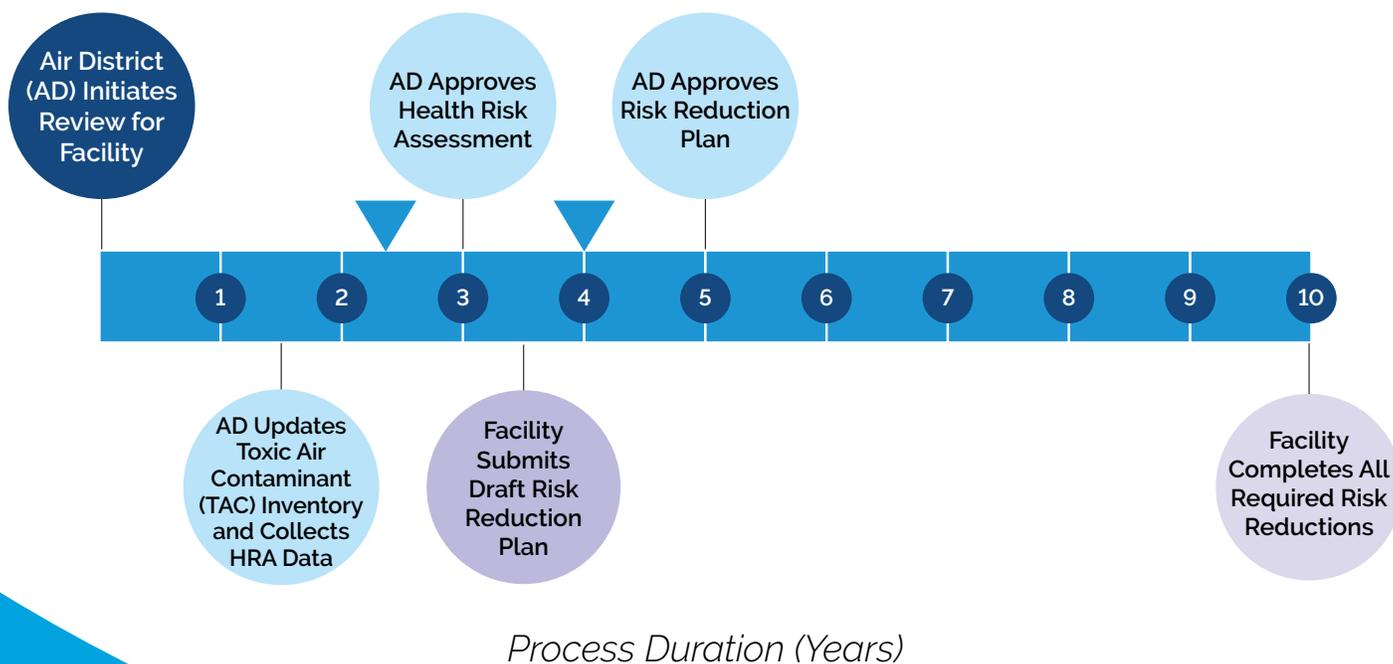
The Air District prioritizes the review of facilities near schools, homes, and in **communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution**. Everyone deserves clean air and a healthy environment — no matter where you live.

## Where Can I Learn More or Get Involved?

Visit our **Facility Risk Reduction List** to view:

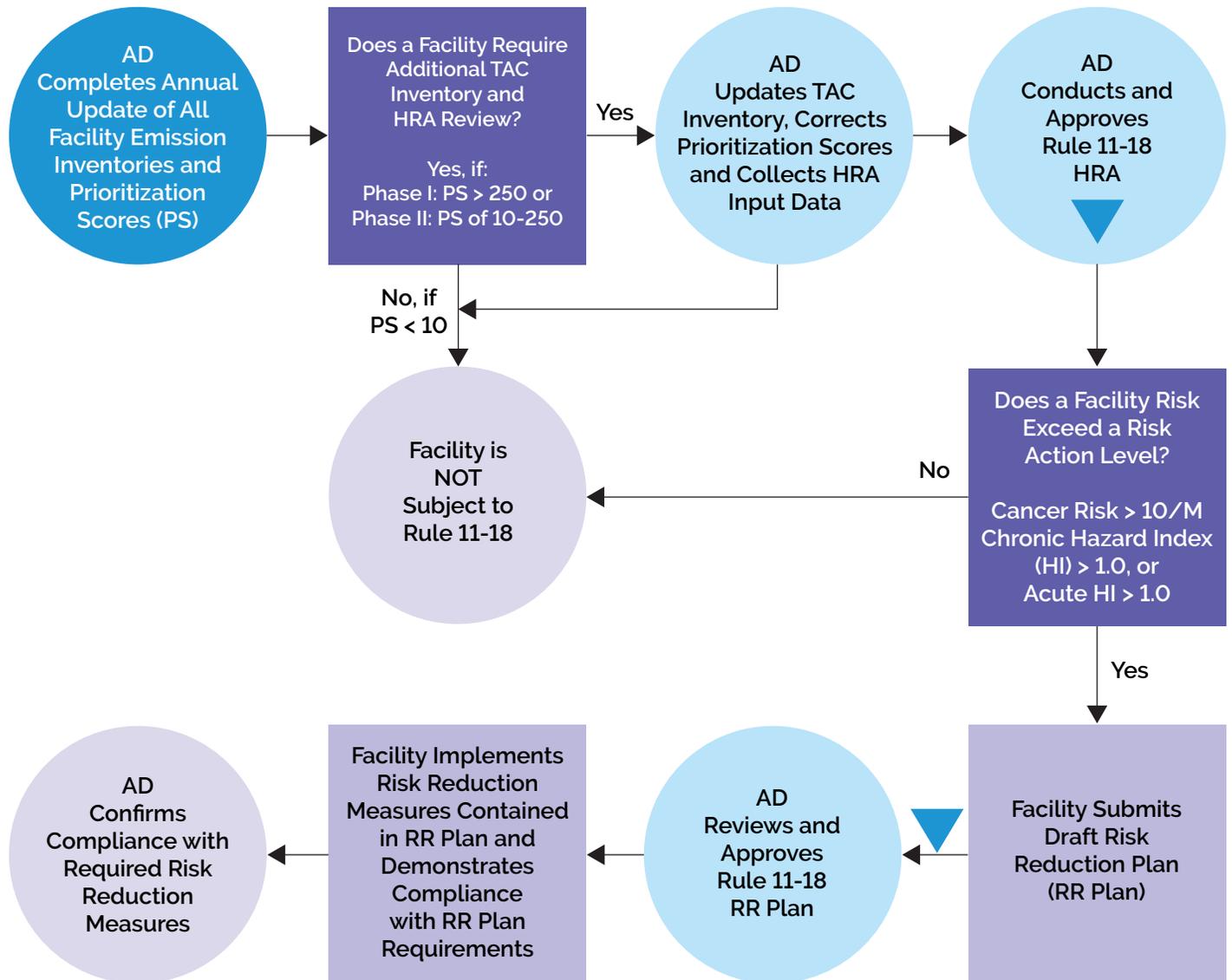
- Facilities subject to Rule 11-18
- Rule implementation status including HRAs and Risk Reduction Plans

## Rule 11-18 Process Duration for a Typical Facility



 = Drafts posted for public comment

# Rule 11-18 Process Flow Chart



 = Drafts posted for public comment