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Air District urges residents to skip the sparklers this Fourth of July

Personal fireworks contribute to unhealthy air and pose a significant wildfire threat

SAN FRANCISCO – The Bay Area Air District urges residents to celebrate responsibly this Fourth of July by avoiding personal fireworks, which can elevate air pollution and increase wildfire danger. Fireworks release smoke and fine particulate matter pollution, contributing to temporary spikes in unhealthy air quality.

“Fireworks may seem festive, but they not only pollute the air we breathe but also raise the risk of wildfires,” said Dr. Philip Fine, executive officer of the Bay Area Air District. “As we prepare to celebrate the Fourth of July this weekend, let’s all do our part to keep the air clean and our communities safe by not lighting personal fireworks.”

At the local level, these pollutants can worsen respiratory conditions, aggravate heart disease, and cause coughing, wheezing, and eye irritation. Children, seniors, and those with preexisting health concerns are especially vulnerable. Fireworks not only impact public health, but they can lead to brush, structure, or wildland fires—causing property damage and even greater air pollution.

Bay Area residents are encouraged to check local event listings or city government websites to locate organized firework displays.

The Bay Area Air District is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality and the global climate in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

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