



News from: **Oakland Fire Department**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 9, 2018

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

Oakland, CA — Due to heavy smoke blowing into the Bay Area from the extensive Camp Fire in Butte County, the [Bay Area Air Quality Management District \(BAAQMD\)](#) has issued an Winter Spare the Air Alert and Air Quality Advisory that will remain in effect until Monday, November 12, 2018. Outdoor and indoor burning of wood or any other solid fuel is prohibited for the duration of the alert.

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A Red Flag Warning has also been issued by the [National Weather Service](#), and shall remain in effect until 8 am Monday, November 12.

In addition to the Oakland Fire Department's normal operations, the firefighters will be conducting roving fire patrols in the Oakland Hills. Please see the attached flyer which provides tips to reduce wildfire hazards.

WHAT TO DO FOR THE AIR QUALITY ADVISORY

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.

WHAT IS A RED FLAG WARNING?

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 the highest alert. During these times extreme caution is urged by all residents, because a simple spark can cause a major wildfire. Please see the attached flyer which discusses what both residents and visitors can do to prevent a wildfire.

JOAQUIN MILLER PARK CLOSURE

Section 12.64.180 of the Oakland Municipal Code (OMC), states that Joaquin Miller Park is closed to the public when a Red Flag Warning is in effect. Signs will be posted at all park entrances and trails regarding the closure.

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.

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THE NEW REALITY: FIRE SEASON IS YEAR ROUND

Help reduce the risk of fires in Oakland's parks and open spaces by following these rules when **Red Flag Days and/or High Fire Danger conditions exist.**

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PARK CLOSURES - On Red Flag Days, parks, trails and recreational facilities may be closed to all visitors due to the high risk of fire. Please observe the posted closure notices. Per Oakland Municipal Code (OMC) [Section 12.64.180](#), Joaquin Miller Park is closed to the public on Red Flag Days.



BBQs – BBQs (barbeques) are prohibited in all City of Oakland Parks when there is a Red Flag Warning in effect. ([12.64.170 OMC](#))

Report illegal fires by calling 911, or from a cell phone (510) 444-1616.



OPEN FLAMES AND CAMP FIRES – Open flames and camp fires are not allowed in the City of Oakland. ([12.64.160 OMC](#) and [15.12.030 OMC](#); [307.1 California Fire Code](#))



SMOKING – Smoking is not allowed in any City of Oakland park and recreational facility. ([8.30.055 OMC](#))



GUNFIRE – Wildfires have been started by firearms. **Report any gunfire, including celebratory gunfire, by calling 911 from a landline or (510) 238-3211 from a cell phone.**



DRIVING – Only drive and park in designated areas. Parking or driving over dry grass and vegetation can cause a fire.



FIREWORKS – Fireworks are not allowed in the City of Oakland. ([8.06.030 OMC](#), [Health and Safety Code 12505](#)) **Report illegal fireworks by calling the Fireworks Tip Line at (510) 777-8814.**

Those caught with fireworks, even the “Safe & Sane” brand, **will be fined up to \$1,000.** Possession of large quantities of fireworks carry penalties of **\$5,000 to \$10,000 and imprisonment.**

RESOURCES



- Oakland Fire Department: www.oaklandca.gov/departments/fire
- Oakland Municipal Code (OMC): <https://library.municode.com/ca/oakland>
- Information for preparing for wildfires and creating defensible space, please visit: www.readyforwildfire.org and www.preventwildfireca.org
- CAL FIRE: www.fire.ca.gov
- Oakland Firesafe Council: www.oaklandfiresafecouncil.org
- Diablo Firesafe Council: www.diablofiresafe.org



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