



South Bay is ready for wildfire prevention, officials call on the public to take precautions

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The National Weather Service issued a red warning for wildfires in the interior of the North Bay Tuesday night until 8 p.m. Wednesday. In the higher-lying areas in the eastern part of Napa County, the wind is high and the objects are dry. Once a wildfire occurs, it may spread rapidly.

Affected by the smoke from the Pecca wildfire, no clouds were visible in the sky in the South Bay on Wednesday. Will the wildfire spread to the south of the Bay Area? Seth Schalet, chief executive officer of the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, told this reporter that it must be prepared. Santa Clara County FireSafe Council is working on several projects to address wildfire risks.

How should Bay Area residents prepare for and respond to the potential danger of the Northern California wildfires and the smog in the air? Seth Schalet offers the following advice.

The most important steps residents can take are investing in home reinforcement such as Class A roofs, wildfire vents to keep embers out, maintaining their defensive spaces, especially so-called Zone 0 (the area between 0 and 5 feet from the residence). The most stringent wildfire fuel reductions are needed. Ember-resistant areas are designed to prevent fire or embers from igniting materials and spreading the fire to the home.

This is done by using hardscape such as gravel, pavers, concrete and other non-combustible cover materials. Make sure there is no combustible bark or mulch. Remove all dead and dying weeds, grass, plants, shrubs, trees, twigs, and plant debris, inspect your roof, gutters, balconies, porches, stairs, etc. Limit flammable items such as outdoor furniture and flowerpots on balconies. Replace flammable fences, gates and gazebos on homes with non-combustible materials. Consider moving trash and recycling containers, boats, RVs, vehicles and other flammable items out of the area.

Wildfire smoke poses significant health risks, and Schalet recommends taking the following steps to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Enter your zip code on the EPA's Air Now website to see real-time updates on the air quality in your neighborhood. Close house windows and car windows. Run the air conditioner, but keep the fresh air intake closed to prevent outdoor smoke from seeping into the room. The California Air Resources Board recommends using a mechanical air cleaner with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter.

In homes without air conditioning, closing doors and windows can reduce pollutant levels by 50%. Avoid activities that increase indoor pollution, such as lighting candles, cooking with gas stoves, and vacuuming.

Rinse your nose and rinse your mouth with water five times a day until the smoke subsides. Shower and wash clothes after going outside.

Respiratory masks can be worn, but care should be taken to choose N95 masks that can filter fine particles.

Public safety officials have warned that the masks are not suitable for everyone and are not a substitute for staying indoors with sealed windows as much as possible. The least effective way is to wear a paper dust mask or a surgical mask, which do not protect against fine particles. Cloth masks do not adequately protect the lungs from particles in wildfire smoke. Our reporter Wang Wei reports from Silicon Valley.



南灣防山火嚴陣以待 官員籲民眾早作防範

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國家氣象局周二晚對北灣內陸地區發布山火紅色警告，持續到周三晚8時。那柏縣東部地勢較高的地區，風高物燥，一旦發生山火，可能快速蔓延。

受北加山火煙霧影響，周三南灣天空看不見雲彩。山火會朝灣區南部蔓延嗎？聖縣消防安全委員會首席執行官Seth Schalet告訴本報記者，必須嚴陣以待。聖縣消防安全委員會正在進行幾個項目來應對野火風險。

對於北加山火潛在的危險以及空氣中的煙霧，灣區居民應如何防範和應對？Seth Schalet給出以下建議。

居民可採取的最重要措施是投資於家庭加固，例如A級屋頂、野火通風口，以防止餘燼進入，維持他們的防禦空間，特別是所謂的0區（距離住宅0至5英尺的區域），需要最嚴格地減少野火燃料。防餘燼區域旨在防止火或餘燼點燃材料，以免火勢蔓延到房屋。

具體作法是，使用硬景觀，如礫石、攤舖機、混凝土和其它不可燃的覆蓋材料。確保沒有可燃的樹皮或覆蓋物。清除所有死亡和垂死的雜草、草、植物、灌木、樹木、樹枝和植物殘骸，檢查你

的屋頂、排水溝、陽台、門廊、樓梯等。限制陽台上戶外家具、花盆等易燃物品。用不可燃材料替換房屋上的易燃圍欄、大門和涼亭。考慮將垃圾和回收容器、船隻、房車、車輛和其他它易燃物品移至該區域之外。

野火煙霧對健康構成重大風險，Schalet建議採取以下步驟來保護自己和親人。

可在環保署Air Now網站輸入郵政編碼，查看所在社區的空氣質量的實時更新情況。關閉房屋門窗和車窗。運行空調，但保持新鮮空氣入口關閉，以防止室外煙霧滲入室內。加州空氣資源委員會建議使用帶有高效顆粒空氣(HEPA)過濾器的機械空氣淨化器。

沒有空調的家裡，關閉門窗可減少50%的污染物水平。避免增加室內污染的活動，如點蠟燭、用燃氣灶做飯和吸塵。

清洗鼻子並用清水漱口，每天做五次，直到煙霧消退。外出後洗澡並清洗衣物。

可佩戴呼吸面罩，但要謹慎選擇可過濾細小顆粒的N95口罩。

公共安全官員警告，這些口罩並不適合所有人，也不能替代盡可能多地待在密封窗戶的室內。最無效的方法是戴紙質防塵口罩或外科口罩，它們不能防止細小顆粒。布口罩無法充分保護肺部免受野火煙霧中顆粒的侵害。本報記者王蔚矽谷報道