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ADEQ Issues Third 2008 High Pollution Advisory for Ozone for Friday, May 30

PHOENIX (May 29, 2008) -- The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has issued a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for the Phoenix metropolitan area because of forecast weather conditions on Friday, May 30 expected to generate levels of ozone that may exceed the federal health standard.

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities on Friday and suggests that the general public limit outdoor activity throughout the day.

Employers participating in the Valley's Trip Reduction Program should implement their pollution reduction action plans on Friday, and all Valley residents should reduce ozone-producing emissions by taking the following steps:

- Drive as little as possible: car pool, use mass transit or telecommute. For information on transportation alternatives, visit Valley Metro: www.valleymetro.org
- Avoid using gas-powered lawn and garden equipment.
- Refuel vehicles after 4 p.m.
- Avoid idling your vehicle.
- Make sure your car's tires are properly inflated and your wheels are aligned.
- Be careful not to spill gasoline when filling up your car or gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment.
- Seal containers of household cleaners, workshop chemicals and solvents and garden chemicals to prevent gases from evaporating into the air.
- Dispose of containers properly.

"This is the third High Pollution Advisory for ozone we have issued this year, and the fourth HPA for 2008," ADEQ Director Steve Owens said. "Increasing temperatures and other conditions are contributing to higher ozone levels. We urge Valley residents to take steps to help reduce emissions that lead to the formation of ozone."

Ground-level ozone pollution is caused by the interaction of sunlight with the many pollutants generated by automobiles, gasoline-powered lawn equipment and other sources. Ozone can irritate the respiratory system, reduce lung function, aggravate asthma and other chronic lung conditions and inflame and damage the cells that line the lungs. Repeated short-term ozone damage to children's developing lungs may lead to reduced lung function in adulthood.

Daily air quality forecasts are available on ADEQ's Web site or by telephone at (602) 771-2367.

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