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ADEQ Extends Ozone High Pollution Advisories Through Saturday, June 14 and Sunday, June 15

PHOENIX (June 13, 2008) -- The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has extended a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for the Phoenix metropolitan area through Saturday, June 14 and Sunday, June 15.

Forecast weather conditions are expected to generate levels of ozone that may exceed the federal health standard. These will be the eighth and ninth HPAs issued for ozone this year and the second weekend in which ADEQ has issued HPAs this season.

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities this weekend and suggests that the general public limit outdoor activity.

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.

"Before this season, we had never issued an ozone HPA for weekend days," said ADEQ Director Steve Owens, "but this is the second weekend so far this season that we have issued HPAs because of the new federal ozone standard and the weather conditions we have been experiencing. 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.

Ozone HPA

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Daily air quality forecasts are available on ADEQ's Web site at <http://azdeq.gov/environ/air/ozone/ensemble.pdf> or by telephone at (602) 771-2367. To get the air quality forecast via email, subscribe to our daily forecast list: www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html. You can also sign up for HPA text-message alerts: www.azdeq.gov/sms.html