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ADEQ Issues Ozone High Pollution Advisory for Wednesday, July 9

PHOENIX (July 8, 2008) -- The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has issued a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for the Phoenix metropolitan area for Wednesday, July 9.

Forecast weather conditions are expected to generate levels of ozone that may exceed the federal health standard. This is the eleventh HPA issued for ozone this year, which ties the record in 2005 for most ozone HPAs issued in one calendar year.

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities Wednesday 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.

"We have had so many of the ozone HPAs this year because of the new federal ozone standard plus the weather conditions we have been experiencing," ADEQ Director Steve Owens said. "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

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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.

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