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ADEQ Issues Ozone High Pollution Advisory for Phoenix Metropolitan Area Wednesday, May 6

PHOENIX (May 5, 2009) -- The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has issued a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for Wednesday, May 6 for the Phoenix metropolitan area because high temperatures, low winds and clear, sunny weather are expected to cause unhealthy levels of ozone.

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities after noon on Wednesday and suggests that the general public limit outdoor activity during the afternoon, when ozone concentrations will be peaking.

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.

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 on ADEQ's Web site at www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/ozone/ensemble.pdf or by calling (602) 771-2367. Those interested in receiving the air quality forecast via email can subscribe to our forecast list at www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html and text alerts at www.azdeq.gov/sms.html.