



**Maricopa County**  
Air Quality Department



## HIGH POLLUTION ADVISORY

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing an ozone High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for Thursday, May 5.

Warm temperatures and light winds forecast for Thursday are expected to create a significant increase in ground level ozone. Air quality forecasters say concentrations of the pollutant may approach the health standard in some areas of the Valley on Wednesday. On Thursday, they expect several areas to possibly exceed the federal health standard.

As a result, the Maricopa County Air Quality Department is enforcing the mandatory “No Burn Day” restriction for Maricopa County from midnight to midnight Thursday. This restriction includes individuals and businesses that have burn permits for open burning.

“Ozone affects all of us by irritating our respiratory system, and can even damage the lining of the lungs, so it’s important for each of us to take action to keep our air clean,” said Maricopa County Air Quality Department Director Bill Wiley. “By cutting down on the number of trips you take in your car, skipping a drive-through line or making sure your household chemicals and paint cans are sealed properly, you can make a big difference in the quality of the air you and your family breathes.”

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

Valley Metro requests employers activate their HPA Plan. Residents and employers are asked to use these tips to help make the air healthier to breathe:

- Eliminate wood burning in fireplaces, stoves, chimineas and outdoor fire pits.
- Drive as little as possible: car pool, use public transit or telecommute. For information on transportation alternatives, visit Valley Metro: [www.valleymetro.org](http://www.valleymetro.org).
- Avoid using leaf blowers.
- Use low-VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) or water-based paints, stains, finishes and paint strippers.
- Delay big painting projects until high-pollution advisories or health watches have passed.
- Make sure containers of household cleaners, garage and yard chemicals and other solvents are sealed properly to prevent vapors from evaporating into the air.
- To learn more about the air you’re breathing, visit: [www.CleanAirMakeMore.com](http://www.CleanAirMakeMore.com)

**OZONE BACKGROUND:** Ground level ozone is formed by a chemical reaction that needs heat from sunlight, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds [VOCs] to form. The months of April through September make up our Valley’s longer-than-normal “ozone season.”

## **WHO'S WHO?**

The **Arizona Department of Environmental Quality [ADEQ]** provides a daily forecast for air quality. When conditions exist, ADEQ will issue high pollution advisories or health watches. Please visit [www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/ozone/ensemble.pdf](http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/ozone/ensemble.pdf) or call (602) 771-2367. To receive the air quality forecast via email and/or text message please visit [www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html](http://www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html)  
**CONTACT:** Mark Shaffer – (602) 771-2215 desk / (480) 433-9551 cell

The **Maricopa County Air Quality Department** is a regulatory agency whose goal is to ensure federal clean air standards are achieved and maintained for the residents and visitors of Maricopa County. The department is governed by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and follows air quality standards set forth by the federal Clean Air Act. The department offers air quality information and resources on its Clean Air Make More website. Please visit [www.CleanAirMakeMore.com](http://www.CleanAirMakeMore.com) to learn more.  
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**Valley Metro/RPTA** provides eco-friendly public transit options to residents of greater Phoenix and Maricopa County, including a clean-fuel bus fleet, low-emissions light rail, online carpool matching and bus trip mapping, and bicycle and telework assistance. Funding is provided by local, state and federal revenues; and administered by a board of 16 governments working to improve and regionalize the public transit system. Please visit [www.ValleyMetro.org](http://www.ValleyMetro.org) to learn more.  
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