

HEALTH WATCH

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has issued a same-day Health Watch for fine Particulate Matter-2.5 which is effective immediately until 5 a.m. Tuesday, May 15.

The Health Watch is being issued because smoke from the Sunflower Fire south of Payson, propelled by northerly winds, moved into the Phoenix metropolitan area Monday afternoon. Additional wildfire smoke from the Gladiator Fire near Crown King could also be moving south into the Valley later this evening.

Maricopa County Air Quality Department air monitoring data began recording an elevation of fine particulate pollution starting at 1 p.m. this afternoon. Low wind speed continued to slowly carry the smoke into the Valley throughout the afternoon, ultimately raising pollution levels to health watch status.

Both ADEQ and Maricopa County have dispatched additional air monitoring equipment to the northern edge of Maricopa County, the Tonto Basin and Black Canyon City. This equipment will supplement the county's [interactive air monitoring](#) network.

An Ozone Health Watch remains in effect in the Phoenix metropolitan area and will continue throughout Tuesday.

The PM-2.5 Health Watch includes the following restrictions:

- Open burning and woodburning fireplace activity is restricted in Maricopa County. This includes individuals and businesses which have burn permits for open burning.

Take Action

- Eliminate open burning and wood burning in fireplaces, stoves, chimineas and outdoor fire pits.
- Consolidate errands, make a list of needed stops and stick to it.
- Turn the car off after 30 seconds of idling.
- Unplug unused appliances.
- Turn up your thermostat when not home.
- Avoid gas-powered lawn and garden equipment.
- Learn more about air pollution at www.CleanAirMakeMore.com
- To find a carpool or vanpool visit www.ValleyMetro.org or call 602.253.5000.
- For more information about wildfire smoke, please visit <http://www.azdeq.gov/function/programs/wildfire.html>

PM-2.5 stands for particulate matter measuring 2.5 microns or less. State and county agencies measure PM-10 and PM-2.5 which are extremely small solid particles and liquid droplets found circulating in the air. PM, or particulate matter, comes from either combustion (cars, industry, woodburning) or dust stirred up into the air. High levels of PM are typically created when the air is especially stagnant.

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."

"**Health Watch**" means the highest concentration of pollution may approach the federal health standard. Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion during a health watch.

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 or call (602) 771-2367. To receive the air quality forecast via email and/or text message please visit www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html
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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 <http://cleanairmakemore.com/> to learn more.
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