



Maricopa County
Air Quality Department



HIGH POLLUTION ADVISORY

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a High Pollution Advisory for ozone for the Phoenix metropolitan area for Wednesday, July 23.

The HPA is being issued because the Valley air flow is expected to shift from the southeast to the northwest Wednesday and Thursday, locking in ozone and its precursors. Those factors, coupled with abundant sunshine and temperatures at or above 115 degrees, are expected to make ozone levels soar.

“Ozone is a serious health risk to all of our residents and these hot weather conditions make the air pollution worse,” Maricopa County Air Quality Department Interim Director Dennis Dickerson said. “Please do your part by driving less, avoid waiting in long drive-thru lines and refueling after dark.”

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

The Maricopa County Air Quality Department will enforce its mandatory “No Burn Day” restrictions during the HPA on Wednesday.

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:

- Avoid waiting in long, drive-through lines like at fast-food restaurants or banks. Park your car and go inside.
- Refuel your vehicle after dark.
- Drive as little as possible: car pool, use public transit or telecommute. For information on transportation alternatives, visit Valley Metro: www.valleymetro.org
- 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

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 or call (602) 771-2367. To receive the air quality forecast via email and/or text message please visit 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 to learn more.
CONTACT: Bob Huhn – (602) 506-6713 desk / (602) 526-7307 cell

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 to learn more. **CONTACT:** Melissa Quillard – (602) 523-6055 desk / (602) 380-9988 cell