



Maricopa County  
Air Quality Department



## HIGH POLLUTION ADVISORY

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is issuing a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for ozone for the Phoenix metropolitan area for Friday, May 1, 2015.

The HPA – the first for ozone in 2015 – is being issued because the high pressure system affecting Valley air flow is locking in ozone and its precursors.

“Tomorrow’s high pollution advisory for ozone is a direct result of a ridge of high pressure that is moving through the area,” said ADEQ Air Quality Division Director Eric Massey. “The ridge will result in stagnant air conditions as well as higher than normal temperatures, allowing ozone concentrations to build up over the course of Thursday and Friday.”

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities Friday 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. Businesses conducting dust-generating operations are urged to be vigilant in their dust control measures and the PM<sub>10</sub> HPA includes the following restrictions:

- Contractors cannot use leaf blowers on governmental properties on HPA days.
- Open burning and residential fireplace burning is restricted in Maricopa County during a HPA. This includes individuals and businesses that have burn permits for open burning.

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](http://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](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 October make up our Valley’s longer-than-normal “ozone season.”

***May 1, 2015 Ozone High Pollution Advisory***

**CONTACTS:**

The **Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)** provides a daily forecast for air quality and issues high pollution advisories or health watches when these conditions exist. Please visit [www.azdeq.gov/enviro/air/ozone/ensemble.pdf](http://www.azdeq.gov/enviro/air/ozone/ensemble.pdf) or call (602) 771-2367 for tomorrow's forecast. To receive air quality forecasts via email and/or text message, please visit [www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html](http://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 [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 car-pool 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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