

HIGH POLLUTION ADVISORY

EFFECTIVE: Saturday and Sunday, June 5-6

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for ozone for the first time this year on Saturday and Sunday, June 5-6.

The HPA is being issued because high pressure will continue to strengthen throughout the weekend producing the hottest temperatures of the year. Atmospheric conditions likely will lock ozone and its precursors over the Valley of the Sun with expected highest ozone levels on Sunday.

As a result, the Maricopa County Air Quality Department is enforcing the mandatory “No Burn Day” restriction for Maricopa County for Saturday and Sunday. Residents and businesses must refrain from burning wood in fireplaces, woodstoves or outdoor fire pits during this 24-hour period. This restriction includes individuals and businesses that have burn permits for open burning. Restrictions also include the use of leaf blowers on governmental properties.

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

“Ozone pollution is a serious threat to public health for people in the Phoenix metropolitan area and we urge everyone to take precautions this weekend,” said ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles.

The Maricopa County Trip Reduction program and Valley Metro Business Services request employers activate their HPA Plan. Residents and employers are asked to use these tips to help make the air healthier to breathe:

- Drive as little as possible: car pool, use public transit or telecommute. For information on transportation alternatives, visit Valley Metro: www.valleymetro.org.
- Do not light a wood-burning fire during the advisory period
- Cut back on the use of 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.

OZONE BACKGROUND: Ground level ozone 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 cells that line the lungs. Repeated short-term ozone damage to children's developing lungs may lead to reduced lung function in adulthood. The months of April through September make up the Phoenix metropolitan area's 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, health watches and alerts. 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 ADEQ's forecast list at www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html and text alerts at www.azdeq.gov/sms.html

The **Maricopa County Air Quality Department** issues No Burn Day restrictions based on a High Pollution Advisory or Health Watch. Certain restrictions can be issued depending on the type of pollution. Learn more about the restrictions by visiting the department's website: www.maricopa.gov/aq and click on the "Current Restrictions" link on the left side of the home page. To find out if any burn restrictions are in place, call 602-506-6400 or visit www.cleanairmakemore.com . Information is given in both English and Spanish.

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 telecommuting assistance. Funding is provided by local, state and federal revenues and administered by a board of 15 governments working to improve and regionalize the public transit system. www.ValleyMetro.org

Media contacts:

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality [ADEQ]

Mark Shaffer - 602-771-2215 desk / 480-433-9551 cell

Maricopa County Air Quality Department

Holly Ward - 602-506-6713 desk / 602-526-7307 cell

Valley Metro

Susan Tierney - 602-262-4668 desk / 602-292-4093 cell