



Maricopa County
Air Quality Department



HIGH POLLUTION ADVISORY

EFFECTIVE: Tuesday, June 29

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for ground level ozone Tuesday, June 29.

Local wind patterns, sunny skies and afternoon high temperatures at or above 110 degrees will mix with our daily pollution contribution to push ozone formation to unhealthy levels Tuesday. ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities after noon on Tuesday and suggests that the general public limit outdoor activity during the afternoon, when ozone concentrations will be peaking.

“We’re starting to see a major increase in days when our monitors record pollution levels above the federal health standard,” states acting Air Quality Department Director Max Porter. “In fact, this summer alone, we have recorded five days when ground level ozone pollution was above the standard and unfortunately we have a long way to go before we catch a break from this summertime pollutant.”

Ozone HPA restrictions include a ban on leaf blower use on governmental properties as well as wood burning restrictions. The Maricopa County Air Quality Department is enforcing the mandatory “No Burn Day” for Maricopa County during the HPA. 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.

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 dark.
- 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

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