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CONTACT: Mark Shaffer, Director of Communications, (602) 771-2215 (o);
(480) 433-9551 (cell)

ADEQ Issues Ozone High Pollution Advisory Friday for Yuma

PHOENIX (May 31, 2012) -- The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for ozone for the Yuma area on Friday.

The HPA is being issued because of ozone transport from Southern California plus a high-pressure system over the Yuma vicinity is responsible for light winds, sunny skies and record heat.

“Excessive heat is conducive to the formation of ozone,” said ADEQ Air Quality Division Director Eric Massey. “Coupled with the transport of ozone from the west, our forecasters are predicting elevated concentrations of ozone in the Yuma area.”

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities on Friday and suggests the general public limit outdoor activity throughout the day.

Yuma and area residents and employers are asked to use these tips to help make the air healthier to breathe: eliminate wood burning in fireplaces, stoves, chimineas and outdoor fire pits; drive as little as possible -- car pool, use public transit or telecommute; and fill up vehicles after dark.

Ground level ozone is formed by a chemical reaction that needs heat from sunlight, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds to form. The months of April through September are generally the best time for ozone to form.

ADEQ provides a daily air quality forecast for the Yuma area at <http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/ozone/yumef.pdf>. To subscribe to the Yuma daily air quality forecast, go to <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/AZDEQ/subscriber/new>, enter your email address and check “Yuma Ensemble Forecast.”