



**Maricopa County**  
Air Quality Department



## HIGH POLLUTION ADVISORY

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a High Pollution Advisory for both ozone and PM-10, particulate matter 10-microns or less in size, for the Phoenix metropolitan area for Thursday, July 3.

The PM-10 HPA is being issued because large storms are expected to develop northeast and southeast of the Phoenix area on Thursday and outflow dust from the storms is expected in the Valley. The ozone HPA is being issued because ozone concentrations are expected to soar because of high temperatures, abundant sunshine and the abrupt shift of the upper-level air flow out of the east.

"Weather conditions are one of the biggest influences in air quality throughout Arizona," said ADEQ Air Quality Division Director Eric Massey. "As the high pressure system sets up in the Four Corners area, wind patterns shift, locking ozone in the Valley. Collapsing thunderstorms around the state also have the potential to increase dust concentrations about the health based standard."

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities Thursday 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 Thursday. Businesses conducting dust-generating operations are urged to be vigilant in their dust control measures and the PM-10 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 PM-10 HPA. This includes individuals and businesses that have burn permits for open burning.
- Off-highway vehicles are prohibited from being used during a PM-10 HPA.

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)
- Avoid activities that generate dust, such as driving on dirt roads.
- Avoid using leaf blowers

- 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.
- Do not light an open outdoor fire and eliminate wood burning in fireplaces, stoves, chimineas and outdoor fire pits.
- 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 September make up our Valley's longer-than-normal "ozone season."

**PARTICULATE MATTER BACKGROUND:** State and county agencies measure PM-10 (dust) and PM-2.5 (soot) which are extremely small solid particles and liquid droplets found circulating in the air. PM, or particulate matter, comes from either combustion (cars, industry, woodburning) or dust stirred up into the air. High levels of PM are typically created when the air is especially stagnant or especially windy. PM-10 stands for particulate matter measuring 10 microns or less. PM-2.5 stands for particulate matter measuring 2.5 microns or less. To put this in perspective, one strand of human hair is 70-100 microns in size.

### **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/enviro/air/ozone/ensemble.pdf](http://www.azdeq.gov/enviro/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](http://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](http://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](http://www.valleymetro.org) to learn more. **CONTACT:** Melissa Quillard – (602) 523-6055 desk / (602) 380-9988 cell