

The Ozone Standard

The Clean Air Act gives the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authority to establish national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). In the Tulsa area, the only pollutant we especially have a continuing problem with is ozone. As of now, the Tulsa area and the state of Oklahoma remain in attainment (not on the EPA's 'Dirty Air List') of the ozone standard—but just barely.

To determine whether or not we meet the standard, we average three years of ozone monitor data, also called an ozone "design value." The standard is currently set at a design value of .075 parts per million (ppm) or less. Tulsa's design value is currently .075 ppm. Because of the serious health and environmental problems ground-level ozone can create, EPA finds it necessary to periodically strengthen or tighten the ozone standard. They are presently considering making the standard much stricter.

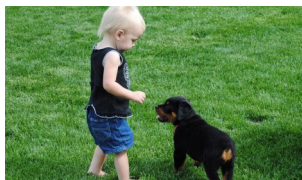
What is the difference between "exceeding" and "violating" the ozone standard?

The EPA's national ozone standard is considered to be "exceeded" when any one monitor records an 8-hour ozone average greater than .075 ppm. This corresponds to an Air Quality Index (AQI) of higher than 100, which means unhealthy air. Exceedances may occur throughout the ozone season, however an area is not considered to have "violated" the ozone standard unless/until the 3-year average of ozone (specifically of the 4th highest readings) is greater than .075 ppm. A great way to keep track throughout the summer is the Season ScoreCard at the OzoneAlert.Com website.

OzoneAlert.Com

Sign up for Ozone Alert! Notices

You can keep track of the area's real-time ozone levels throughout the season by logging onto www.OzoneAlert.com. This site is dedicated solely to the Tulsa area. On the site, you can also sign up to receive Ozone Alerts by email. Or on your phone, simply text the word 'ozone' to #95920.



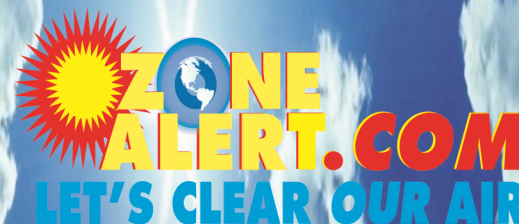
Tulsa's Ozone Monitors

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) maintains five ozone monitoring stations in the Tulsa Metro area (as seen in the map below). This is considered the "Tulsa AirShed". Because ozone takes time to 'cook', no matter where you live in the airshed, you are affected by the pollution at ground-level and are benefitted by the voluntary efforts of the Ozone Alert! Program.



OzoneAlert.Com

Tulsa Area Ozone Alert! Program



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