

What is the Ozone Alert! Program?



The voluntary, proactive Ozone Alert! Program

was created to maintain Tulsa's clean air status. The award-winning program has been widely replicated throughout the country. Cities such as Dallas/Ft. Worth, San Francisco, Cincinnati, and many others, large and small, have adopted the voluntary Ozone Alert! concept. And it works!

The Ozone Alert! Program predicts days when atmospheric conditions may cause unhealthy levels of ozone in Tulsa. This advance prediction allows the community to take **voluntary** measures to reduce ozone formation.

Ozone in the upper atmosphere is a beneficial and protective layer around the earth, but ground-level ozone is harmful air pollution that threatens our health, quality of life, and the Tulsa area's economic prosperity.

Ground-level ozone is created when sunlight reacts with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NOx). Reducing these emissions is necessary to reduce ground-level ozone formation.

No matter where you live in the Tulsa area, you probably affect and are affected by our air quality.



Why should I care about the Ozone problem in the Tulsa Area?

Exposure to ground level ozone is a threat to our health. Five groups of people are especially vulnerable to the effects of breathing ozone: children, senior citizens, people who work or exercise outdoors, people with preexisting respiratory disease (e.g., asthma or COPD) and "responders" who are otherwise healthy but have an enhanced reaction to ozone.

Ozone's effect on an individual's health can depend on many factors, including whether they are part of a susceptible population group, how much ozone is in the air, how rapidly they breathe, and how long they are exposed to the ozone.

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Take Action on Ozone Alert! Days

- **Leave your car at home.** Walk, bike, carpool, ride the bus or telecommute.
- **Avoid idling.** On Alert! Days walk-in rather than drive-thru.
- **Bring your lunch to work.** "Brown bag it" or walk to lunch.
- **Postpone refueling.** Wait until evening or not at all on Alert! Days.
- **Postpone mowing and using other gasoline-powered lawn equipment.** Wait until evening or not at all on Alert! Days
- **Postpone errands on an Ozone Alert! Day.**

