



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 3, 2022

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY: CODE ORANGE FOR OZONE

A OZONE ACTION ADVISORY has been declared for March 3, 2022, for Northwest and Central Arkansas. The Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) forecasts ozone concentrations in Central Arkansas and Northwest Arkansas that indicate outdoor activities may be unhealthy for active children and adults, and for individuals in sensitive groups. In addition, monitor data indicates elevated concentrations of ozone throughout the rest of Arkansas and much of the Mid-South. Health precautions include limiting prolonged outdoor exertion among active children and adults, and people with preexisting respiratory disease.

In cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment, Division of Environmental Quality has issued a “**CODE ORANGE**” **AIR QUALITY ADVISORY FOR OZONE**, because of projected monitored concentrations above the 8-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of 0.070 parts per million. On **OZONE ACTION DAYS** public agencies, private business, and the general public should take voluntary actions to reduce ground-level ozone formation. Active children and adults, and individuals with respiratory conditions should take precautions to reduce health-risks associated with ozone exposure.

CODE ORANGE TIPS AND PRECAUTIONS

OZONE REDUCTION TIPS	HEALTH PRECAUTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refuel cars and lawnmowers before 7:00 am or after 7:00 pm, avoid fuel spills, and do not “top off” tanks• Carpool or use mass transit• Combine errands instead of separate vehicle trips• Do not drive unnecessarily, especially during peak commuting hours or during the hottest part of the day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limit prolonged outdoor exertion during afternoon hours• High ozone levels can cause nose, eye, throat, and lung irritation during outdoor exertion• High ozone levels can aggravate existing conditions and lead to increased potential for illness among people with preexisting respiratory conditions

To check the daily ozone forecasts for Arkansas, go to adeq.state.ar.us. To see daily U.S. ozone levels maps, go to airnow.gov.

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