



News Release

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Office of Public Communications • (702) 455-3546 • FAX (702) 455-3558 • www.ClarkCountyNV.gov

Contact: Stacey Welling
Sr. Public Information Officer

Phone: (702) 455-3201
Cell: (702) 249-3823
E-mail: stac@ClarkCountyNV.gov

For Immediate Release

Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015

Air Quality Advisory Extended Through Friday for Smoke and Ozone Due to Wildfires

Clark County Department of Air Quality (DAQ) extended an advisory **for today through Friday, Aug. 21**, for potentially elevated levels of smoke and ozone due to wildfires burning in the southern Sierra Nevada in California. Air Quality officials say smoke is made of small dust particles and other pollutants that can aggravate respiratory diseases and contribute to ground-level ozone formation.

At this time, unhealthy levels of air pollution are not occurring. Detailed current and past information on air quality conditions is posted in the monitoring section of the DAQ website: http://airquality.clarkcountynv.gov/cgi-bin/aqi_map.pl. The DAQ website page showing the air quality forecast, advisories and alerts is located at <http://redrock.clarkcountynv.gov/forecast/>. You can receive free air quality forecasts and advisories via e-mail or text message through Enviroflash service. Subscription information is available at www.enviroflash.org.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT OZONE:

Ozone is a gas that occurs naturally in the upper atmosphere and protects earth from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. At ground level, ozone is a key ingredient of urban smog during the hottest months of the year in Clark County. Ground-level ozone can build up during the afternoon hours due to a combination of several factors, including strong sunlight, hot temperatures, and pollutants from automobiles and other sources such as transport, wildfires and fireworks. Unhealthy doses of ground-level ozone can reduce lung function and worsen respiratory illnesses such as asthma or bronchitis. Exposure to ozone also can induce coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath even in healthy people. When ozone levels are elevated, everyone should limit strenuous outdoor activity, especially people with respiratory diseases. If you are experiencing breathing difficulties or medical conditions that you think are related to air quality, see your health care provider. Officials suggest these tips to help reduce the formation of ground-level ozone:

- Fill up your gas tank after sunset.
- Plan errands so they can be done in one trip.
- Try not to spill gasoline when filling up, and don't top off your gas tank.
- Keep your car well maintained.
- Use mass transit or carpool.

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- Don't idle your car engine unnecessarily.
- Walk or ride your bike whenever practical and safe.
- Consider low-maintenance landscaping that uses less water and doesn't require the use of gas-powered lawn tools to maintain.
- Turn off lights and electronics when not in use. Less fuel burned at power plants means cleaner air.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT DUST AND SMOKE:

Airborne smoke/dust is a form of inhalable air pollution called particulate matter, or PM, which aggravates respiratory diseases such as bronchitis and asthma. It may be best for children, the elderly, and people with respiratory or heart diseases to stay indoors. If you are experiencing breathing difficulties or medical conditions that you think are related to air quality, see your health care provider. Other suggestions to reduce exposure to dust and smoke include:

- Limit outdoor exertion on dusty days or when smoke is in the air. Exercise, for example, makes you breathe heavier and increases the amount of particulates you are likely to inhale.
- Keep windows closed. Run your air conditioner inside your house and car. Your air conditioner filters out dust and particulates.
- Consider changing your indoor air filters if they are dirty.

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Clark County is a dynamic and innovative organization dedicated to providing top-quality service with integrity, respect and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the nation's 13th-largest county and provides extensive regional services to more than 2.1 million citizens and 44 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 9th-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The County also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to about 930,000 residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development.

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