



News Release

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For Immediate Release

Friday, June 24, 2016

Air Quality Alert Issued Through Saturday Morning For Ozone, Smoke Due to Wildfires

Clark County's Department of Air Quality (DAQ) issued an alert through Saturday morning for ozone and smoke. Today's ozone and smoke levels are potentially associated with emissions from the Erskine Fire near Los Angeles and Bakersfield, local weather conditions, and existing levels of pollutants. An air quality advisory issued for ozone and smoke on June 22 remains in effect through Monday, June 27, due to the Erskine fire and others burning in Southern California.

At this time, "unhealthy for sensitive groups" levels of ozone and smoke are imminent or are occurring and are expected to continue through Saturday morning. Clark County Air Quality officials will continue to monitor conditions and will post an update on the forecast page of the DAQ website if needed. The website also contains data on current and past conditions. A link to the forecast page is: <http://redrock.clarkcountynv.gov/forecast/>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

New Ozone Standard & Seasonal Advisory: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency adopted a new standard for ozone in Oct. 2015 at an eight-hour average of 70 parts per billion (ppb). A part per billion is the equivalent of a drop in an Olympic size swimming pool. Clark County met the previous standard at 75 ppb but is expected to struggle with complying with the new, lower standard, especially during the spring and summer months in the Las Vegas Valley. A seasonal advisory for ozone pollution is in effect from April through September, meaning that observed levels could reach the level of the standard. Alerts are issued when unhealthy levels of ozone for sensitive groups are occurring or are imminent.

What is 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

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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doctor. **The following tips help reduce the formation of ground-level ozone:** Fill up your gas tank after sunset. Try not to spill gasoline when filling up. Don't top off your gas tank. Keep your car well maintained. Use mass transit or carpool. Don't idle your car engine. Mow your lawn after sunset.

About Smoke and Particulates

Smoke and dust are forms of inhalable air pollution called particulate matter or PM, which aggravates respiratory diseases. In addition to staying indoors, other suggestions for avoiding dealing with smoke and particulates include:

- Limit outdoor exertion – exercise makes you breathe heavier and increases the amount of particulates you may inhale.
- Keep windows and doors closed. Run your air conditioner inside your house and car. Air conditioning filters out dust and particles.
- Change your indoor air filters if they are dirty.

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