



News Release

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For Immediate Release

Monday, June 6, 2016

Air Quality Alert Issued For Ozone Effective for Today

Clark County Department of Air Quality (DAQ) issued an alert today for ozone. Today's ozone levels are associated with regional and local weather conditions, and existing levels of pollutants that produce ozone. The alert will be in effect for today, **Monday, June 6**, but may be extended if conditions warrant.

At this time, "unhealthy for sensitive groups" levels of ozone are occurring and are expected to continue into this afternoon and evening. People who may be most sensitive to elevated levels of ozone include individuals with respiratory problems, cardiac disease, young children or senior citizens. 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 or exceed 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 doctor. **The following tips help reduce the formation of ground-level ozone:** Fill up your gas tank after sunset and don't top off your tank. Plan errands so they can be done in one trip. Limit the use of outdoor fireplaces, grills, fire pits and gasoline-powered lawn equipment, particularly during day time hours. Use mass transit or carpool if possible. ###

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 45 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 954,000 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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