



# News Release

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For Immediate Release

Tuesday May 1, 2012

## Air Quality Advisory Issued For Ozone From May Through September

Clark County Air Quality officials are advising residents that weather conditions and levels of pollutants this summer may trigger a buildup of ground-level ozone in Southern Nevada from May through September.

At this time, unhealthy levels of ozone are not occurring. Air Quality officials will continue to monitor conditions and will post an alert on the forecast page of the Air Quality website if unhealthy levels actually occur. A link to the forecast page is located at <http://redrock.clarkcountynv.gov/forecast/>

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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 and wildfires. 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. 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.
- 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.

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Detailed air quality conditions are posted in the monitoring section of the Air Quality website. 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](http://www.enviroflash.org).

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 14<sup>th</sup>-largest county and provides extensive regional services to more than 2 million citizens and 42 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 8<sup>th</sup>-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 almost 900,000 residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development.