

Summary of ozone exceedances on August 23 and 24, 2016

Clark County was impacted by smoke from multiple wildfires burning in central and southern California through much of August 2016. The Cedar Fire located in Sequoia National Forest northeast of Bakersfield, California produced a smoke plume that was transported to southern Nevada on a notably direct path that added enough smoke material added to a regional combined plume from other fires to produce more obvious haze, higher levels of ozone and particulate matter (both PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀). The 8-hour ozone Standard was exceeded at the Joe Neal site on August 23 with 71 parts per billion (ppb); other sites had similar results for the day but did not exceed the Standard.

Ozone levels on August 24 were some of the highest hourly values recently measured in the DAQ network. Five sites had hourly values over 85 ppb, and two sites had hours over 90 ppb: Walter Johnson and J. D. Smith. The 8-hour ozone Standard was exceeded at six sites in the Las Vegas valley: Paul Meyer, Walter Johnson, Palo Verde, Joe Neal, Jerome Mack and J. D. Smith.

The smoke impacts included higher concentrations of both particle sizes, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀. The daily averages were in the Moderate AQI range. The visible haze from the smoke generated considerable public interest in the air quality conditions.