



News Release

Headline: The Southwest Clean Air Agency, in conjunction with Oregon DEQ, issues an air quality advisory for ozone in Clark County and surrounding Portland-Vancouver Metro area.

Release Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Along with high temperatures over the next couple of days, SWCAA is expecting elevated levels of ozone pollution for the Portland-Vancouver area. Ozone levels are expected to reach a level considered “UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS” Thursday through Friday evening (September 5-6) as the region is under the influence of the extreme heat. Health officials recommend sensitive groups limit outdoor activity when pollution levels are elevated.

<https://www.swcleanair.gov/burning/airquality.asp>

The Air Quality Index rates air quality based on labels of “good” (0 to 50, green), “moderate” (51 to 100, yellow), “unhealthy for sensitive groups” (101-150, orange), “unhealthy” (151-200, red), and “very unhealthy” (201 to 300, deep red). Any reading above 300 is “hazardous.” Ozone levels are expected to increase into the “unhealthy for sensitive groups” range at several locations in the Vancouver metropolitan area.

<https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/>

The advisory simply means that local residents are urged to protect their health and help improve air quality by reducing pollution from cars, mowers, paint and aerosol sprays. Commuters should consider taking public transportation or carpooling instead of driving internal combustion vehicles, if possible. Businesses can help by encouraging employees to carpool, take the bus or telecommute on advisory days.

For information about using C-TRAN or other transportation options in Vancouver area, call 360-695-0123, or visit www.c-tran.com

Ozone irritates the eyes, nose and lungs, and contributes to breathing problems, reduced lung function and asthma. The Washington Department of Health offers detailed information on how residents can best deal with impacts on their homes and communities.

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/AirQuality/OutdoorAir>

Here are ways you can help sensitive people in your community by reducing air pollution:

- Avoid any type of burning
- Avoid unnecessary engine idling
- Refuel your vehicle during cooler evening hours
- Limit driving by combining errands or using public transportation
- Don't use gas-powered mowers and yard equipment
- Don't paint or use aerosol sprays

For weather information visit the National Weather Service website at: <https://www.weather.gov/>

Contacts:

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