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News Release

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For Immediate Release

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Seasonal Air Quality Advisory Issued for Ozone, Wildfire Smoke

Dual Advisory Will Be in Effect from April 1 to Sept. 30

Clark County's Division of Air Quality (DAQ) issued a season-long advisory for ground-level ozone pollution and wildfire smoke today that will be in effect from **Tuesday, April 1 through Tuesday, Sept. 30**. Air quality forecasters say the increased chance of wildfire smoke drifting into Southern Nevada can influence ozone formation as well as increase particulate matter pollution.

Last year, DAQ recorded 26 days when ground-level ozone exceeded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS); an increase from 18 exceedance days in 2023. Paul Fransioli, DAQ senior meteorologist, said wildfire smoke was a contributing factor, but not the only factor.

"Ozone concentrations are higher in the summer in the Vegas Valley due to a combination of homegrown pollutants, lots of sunshine and transport of ozone-producing pollutants from elsewhere," Fransioli said. "When you factor in the mountainous surroundings and Vegas becomes a perfect bowl for ozone to 'cook'."

Ozone is a colorless, odorless gas that exists naturally in the Earth's stratosphere. At ground level, ozone is a key ingredient of urban smog that can build up during the day in the hottest months of the year due to strong sunlight, hot temperatures, gasoline and chemical vapors, pollutants from automobiles, wildfires and regional transport. Exposure to ozone can irritate your respiratory system and cause coughing, a sore throat, chest pain and shortness of breath even in healthy people, according to the EPA.

[more]

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DAQ also issued a seasonal wildfire smoke advisory alongside the ozone advisory for the fourth consecutive year, as wildfires throughout the west have become more frequent in the summer months. Those fires have sent smoke billowing into Southern Nevada, impacting particulate pollution as well as ozone formation.

Smoke is made of small particulates and other pollutants that can aggravate respiratory diseases and contribute to ground-level ozone formation. Exposure to smoke can induce coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath even in healthy people.

According to the EPA, people who may be most sensitive to elevated levels of particulates and ozone include individuals with respiratory problems, cardiac disease, young children and senior citizens. Consult your physician if you have a medical condition that makes you sensitive to air quality conditions.

SMOKE AND OZONE TIPS

- Stay indoors when you smell or see smoke.
- Limit outdoor activity and exertion when ozone levels are elevated.
- Keep windows and doors closed. Run your air conditioner inside your house and car.
- Change your indoor air filters if they are dirty.
- Schedule activities for the morning or evening when ozone levels are usually lower.
- Always consult your doctor first for medical advice.

HELPFUL TIPS TO REDUCE OZONE

Because exhaust from cars, trucks and other vehicles are major contributors to ozone:

- Reduce driving – combine errands into one trip.
- Don't idle your car engine unnecessarily.
- Use mass transit or carpool.
- Fill up your gas tank after sunset. Try not to spill gasoline when filling up. Don't top off your tank.
- Keep your car well maintained.
- Consider landscaping that uses less water and gas-powered equipment to maintain.
- Turn off lights and electronics when not in use. Less fuel burned means cleaner air.

STAY UP TO DATE WITH LOCAL AIR QUALITY INFORMATION

- **Daily Air Quality Forecast Website:** [DESAQMonitoring.ClarkCountyNV.gov](https://desaqmonitoring.clarkcountynv.gov).
- **Social Media:** Facebook: [ClarkCountyDES](https://www.facebook.com/ClarkCountyDES); Twitter/X: [@ClarkCountyDES](https://twitter.com/ClarkCountyDES) and Instagram: [@clarkcounttydes](https://www.instagram.com/clarkcounttydes).
- **Daily Text/Email Alerts:** www.enviroflash.org.
- **AIRNow Mobile App:** <https://www.airnow.gov/airnow-mobile-app/>.

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Located in Clark County, Nevada, the Department of Environment and Sustainability (DES) is the region's air pollution control agency. DES also administers the Desert Conservation Program and leads the All-In Clark County initiative to address climate impacts in Southern Nevada. Whether it's protecting the air we share, protecting species like the desert tortoise or making home and vehicle electrification easier for residents, our team is united by our shared passion to create a cleaner, healthier, more sustainable Southern Nevada.

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 11th-largest county and provides extensive regional services to 2.4 million citizens and 43 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 7th-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 1 million 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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