



National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone

Who Sets the Standards for Ozone?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has provided a guide to measure the levels of ozone concentrations in the air. The guide is called the Air Quality Index (AQI) and these ratings determine the quality of the air.

U.S. EPA Air Quality Guide for Ozone			
Air Quality Index	Color	Air Quality	Prediction
0 to 50	Green	Good	No health impacts are expected.
51 to 100	Yellow	Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should limit prolonged outdoor activity.
101 to 150	Orange	Unhealthy for sensitive groups	Active people and those with respiratory disease should limit prolonged outdoor activity.
151 to 200	Red	Unhealthy	Active people and those with respiratory disease should avoid prolonged outdoor activity; all others should limit prolonged outdoor activity.
201 to 300	Purple	Very unhealthy	Active people and those with respiratory disease should avoid all outdoor activity; all others should limit outdoor activity.

NOACA declares Ozone Action Days when the AQI is over 100. This value represents ozone in the air of more than 85 parts per billion (ppb) somewhere in the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain area, measured as an 8-hour average. Such a level is above the national standard that is set to protect public health.

Northeast Ohio exceeded the 85 ppb/100 AQI eight times during the 2004 summer. During the 2003 Season, nine exceedences were reported compared to 28 exceedences in 2002. This information is documented in NOACA's 2003, 2004 and 2005 Annual Northeast Ohio Ozone Action Day Program reports, which can be found on NOACA's webpage at www.noaca.org/oad.html.

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PROGRAM

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