



## Northeast Ohio Ozone Action Day Program

### 2005 Mid-Season Update

#### Ozone Action Day Program in High Gear as a Result of High Temperatures

The **Ozone Action Day Program's** 11th Season kicked off May 15th



with mild weather conditions. These conditions quickly relented to a heat wave that blanketed most of June and continued into

July. Six **Ozone Action Days** (OADs) have been declared for the Northeast Ohio region to date.

#### 2005 Season Declarations

The six Ozone Action Days declared to date were:

- **June 7**
- **June 8**
- **June 24**
- **June 25**
- **June 30**
- **July 12**

These OADs were declared because monitor readings were

expected to exceed 85 ppb (parts per billion), which put them at “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” on the US EPA’s Air Quality Index. These levels of pollution are considered unhealthy for children, elderly and those individuals with respiratory conditions.

The following days were not declared as OADs, though, due to higher than projected temperatures and low winds, each date exceeded the standard resulting in an unhealthy amount of ground-level ozone:

- **April 19**
- **June 9**
- **June 21**
- **June 26**
- **June 27**
- **June 29**
- **July 10**
- **July 11**

“Health Advisories” are now sent out on days that have not been declared but show that area monitors are reading unhealthy ozone levels.

#### 2005 OAD Outreach

This year’s OAD Program focus is “Alternate Transportation.” The main goal has been to educate the public on the increased fuel savings benefit of mass transit, RideShare and other alternate modes of transportation, in addition to the reduction of air pollution.

This outreach includes mailing and hand-delivering OAD brochures and Media Kits to local media entities and to public agencies. In addition, bike maps for the 5 NOACA counties were sold at the booth hosted by the program at the Clean Air Challenge, a walking and biking event hosted by the American Lung Association.

The OAD staff has also hosted a booth at the Mercury Thermometer Exchange Program held at the City of Cleveland Health Centers on the East and West sides of Cleveland. Tire gauges were handed out to visitors to better promote Ohio’s E-check program and to drive home the idea of fuel savings by maintaining proper tire pressure.

#### What’s New for the OAD Program?

This year has brought a few welcomed additions to the Program. The director of the program is Pamela Davis, Senior Environmental Planner at NOACA. Amy Wainright, Esq., joined the OAD team full-time, and a summer intern, Mary Wells, was hired. Mary is a graduate

Ozone Levels for 2005  
**Declared Ozone Action Days**  
(Unofficial Data)

Date	Regional Maximum 8-Hr Concentration PPB (parts per billion)	Number of Monitors over Standard (>85 ppb)	Forecasted Maximum Temperature
June 7	89	2	90
June 8	105	3	89
June 24	94	5	91
June 25	104	2	92
June 30	80	0	91
July 12	95	3	83

student of Environmental Science at Cleveland State University. Together the OAD team will continue to make improvements to the OAD participant database and website in order to keep the public informed of the real dangers of ground-level ozone.

Staff has analyzed and updated current press and educational packets along with the OAD Program website, ensuring user-friendliness and accuracy. The OAD program has educational packets (grade school age), press packets, vivid informational pamphlets and educational videos available to the public. Staff is currently exploring the possibility of public access television, to help get the word out to the public.

### Not Sure If An Ozone Action Day Has Been Declared?

**Log On To NOACA's website!** Declarations are posted on NOACA's home page each time the Northeast Ohio Region calls an OAD. Visit:

<http://www.noaca.org/oad.html>

You can "Check Today's Air Quality." For the most current information on ozone levels, get near-real-time air quality readings at

<http://neoair.noaca.ohiou.edu/quality/currentmap.asp>

(See example at right)

### You can also:

- Check the **Plain Dealer**, the **News Herald** and **Cleveland.com** for the ozone Action Day logo!
- Listen or watch morning and evening traffic and weather reports.

### Refresher: How the OAD Program Works:

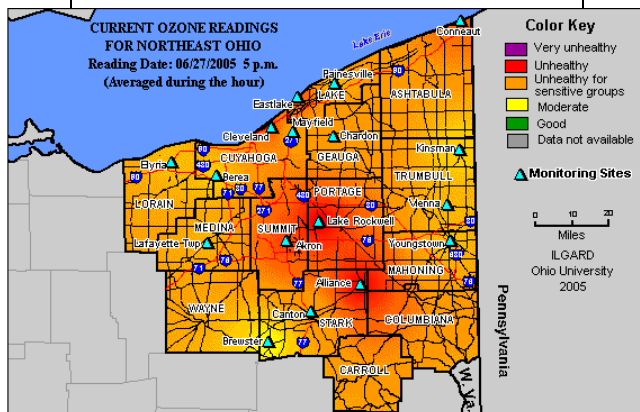
The previous day's air quality and weather forecast information is analyzed daily to forecast the following day's ozone levels.

If the ozone forecast suggests that regional levels may be in the "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" range or higher, a teleconference is held between NOACA, local air agencies, Ohio EPA and the National Weather Service.

During the teleconference, forecast updates are discussed and a decision is made as to whether or not the following day will be an Ozone Action Day.

If an Ozone Action Day is declared, then faxes and e-mails are sent to participating agencies, individuals, businesses and the local media. The notices alert participants of the declaration, reminding them of what they can do to help.

### Do You Want to Be Notified When an OAD has Been Declared?



**SIGN UP ON-LINE** to receive free email or fax notification of ozone alerts. A link to the on-line registration can be found at [www.noaca.org/oad.html](http://www.noaca.org/oad.html).

### What Should We All Do?

The OAD Program depends on the voluntary actions of the Northeast Ohio region's residents. The Program is aimed at encouraging people to make behavioral changes that will benefit them and the air we all breathe. Many no-cost or low-cost actions will make our air cleaner, these actions include:

- Inform friends and family when an OAD has been declared
- Avoid yard maintenance with gas-powered equipment until after 7 PM
- Avoid refueling until after 7 PM
- Carpool or **RIDESHARE (1-800-825-RIDE)**
- Combine trips and eliminate unnecessary trips
- Reduce power demand
- Take advantage of public transportation
- Walk or ride a bike for short trips
- Don't top off your gas tank
- Avoid "jack rabbit" starts

### Questions on the OAD Program?

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