



Northeast Ohio Ozone Action Day Program

2005 End-of-Season Report

High Temperatures Make for a Very Active Ozone Action Day Season!

The **Ozone Action Day Program's** 11th Season wrapped up September 15, 2005, with mild weather conditions brought on by the tail end of Hurricane Katrina. These conditions were preceded by a number of heat waves that blanketed most of June, July and August. Ten **Ozone Action Days** (OADs) were declared for the Northeast Ohio region during this season.

Check out the following page of this update for more information on monthly weather conditions and resulting ozone levels.

2005 Season Declarations

The ten OADs declared were:

- **June 7**
- **June 8**
- **June 24**
- **June 25**
- **June 30***
- **July 12**
- **August 2**
- **August 3**
- **August 4***
- **August 9***

* Three forecasted OADs did not exceed the standard.

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. OADs especially affect children, the elderly and individuals with respiratory conditions.

The following days were not declared as OADs, although due to higher than projected temperatures and low winds, each date did exceed the 85 ppb standard:

- **April 19**
- **June 9**
- **June 21**
- **June 26**
- **June 27**
- **June 29**
- **July 10**
- **July 11**
- **July 20**
- **August 1**
- **September 13**

"Health Advisories" were sent out on days that had not been declared but showed that area monitors were reading unhealthy ozone levels.

2005 OAD Outreach

This year's OAD Program focus was "Alternate Transportation" to educate the public on the benefits of mass transit, RIDESHARE and other alternate modes of transportation, in addition to reducing air pollution. This focus inadvertently partnered with this summer's rising gas prices, providing an unexpected link in raising awareness of the need for alternate modes of transportation.

This season, outreach included 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 members of the Cleveland Asthma Coalition were

given OADs brochures for further distribution.

The OAD staff also hosted a booth at EarthFest 2005 and at the Mercury Thermometer Exchange Program held at the City of Cleveland Health Centers. 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?

The manager of the program is Pamela Davis, Senior Environmental Planner at NOACA. Amy Wainright, Esq., Air Quality Planner, joined the OAD team full-time, and a summer intern, Mary Wells, was hired. Mary is a graduate student of Environmental Science at Cleveland State University.

The OAD team improved the participant database and website to make the site more welcoming and more efficient in informing the public of the real dangers of ground-level ozone.

Staff updated current press and educational packets 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 creating a public service announcement or instructional video, to help get the word out to the public. In addition, a Public Health Forum is planned for spring of 2006.

Questions on the OAD Program?

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Ozone Levels & Weather Conditions for 2005 **Ozone Action Days** (Unofficial Data)

Month	Average Temperature (degrees F)	Maximum/Minimum Temperatures (degrees F)	Number of 85 degrees or more	Total Monthly Precipitation (inches)	Number of Days with some Precipitation	Ozone Action Days	Date of Exceedance of .085 ppb	Number of Monitors over Standard (>.085 ppb)	Maximum 8-Hr Concentration ppb
May	55.2	65.3 / 45.1	0	1.43	18 (out of 31)	0	-	0	84
June	73.7	83.6 / 63.8	16	1.64	14 (out of 30)	5	7 th 8 th 9 th 21 st 23 rd 24 th 25 th 26 th 27 th 29 th	2 2 1 2 1 8 2 5 11 1	89 105 95 87 85 94 104 94 119 86
July	75.2	84.5 / 65.8	16	3.24	15 (out of 31)	1	3 rd 4 th 10 th 11 th 12 th 20 th	1 1 6 3 3 2	128* 179* 95 101 95 90
August	74.1	83.0 / 65.1	12	7.60	15 (out of 31)	4	1 st 2 nd 3 rd	1 2 3	92 93 89
September	67.1	76.9 / 57.3	1	3.55	11 (out of 30)	1	13 th	1	85

*potential monitor malfunction