



Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency's Ozone Action Day Program

2006 Mid-Season Update

Ozone Action Day Program In Motion With A Rainy Start To The Season!

The **Ozone Action Day** (OAD) Program's 12th Season kicked off



May 15th with cool and wet weather conditions. Two brief warm spells, late May (2) and mid-June (1), brought the first

three Ozone Action Day (OAD) declarations of the season.

2006 Season Declarations

The following Ozone Action Days have been declared to date:

- **May 29**
- **May 30**
- **June 17**
- **July 16**
- **July 17**

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 day was not declared an OAD, though, due to higher than projected temperatures and low winds, one monitor on the shores of Lake Erie at Conneaut exceeded the standard.

▪ **June 16**

2006 OAD Outreach

This year's OAD Program focus is "Drive-time Reductions = Fuel Savings." The main goal has been to educate the public on the increased air pollution benefit along with the fuel savings of properly tuned vehicles as well as mass transit, RideShare and other alternate modes of transportation. Tire gauges were handed out to drive home the idea of fuel savings by maintaining proper tire pressure.

This outreach included mailing and hand-delivering OAD brochures and Media Kits to local media entities and to public agencies.

The OAD Program would like to acknowledge the Lake County

General Health District for their assistance in delivering over 500 OAD Program brochures to local schools and libraries!

OAD Program staff handed out over 8,750 OAD Program brochures and sold regional bike maps at local events.

To kick off the season, the Program sponsored "**Healthy Air Days**," a weeklong event from May 15 - 21, educating the public on the effects of poor air quality and conservation as a method of achieving clean air.

Events included:

- "No Drive Day" on May 17
- Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb (CFL) giveaways
- Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority's "Try Transit Event"
- Display at Cleveland Marathon's Health and Fitness Expo
- Presentation on "Northeast Ohio's Air Quality Challenge," given to Cleveland MetroParks employees
- In-house challenge for NOACA staff to submit innovative ideas
- Daily themed emails to the public and media on health effects, causes of air pollution and tips.

The OAD Program also hosted booths at these events:

- The Entrepreneurs for Sustainability February meeting, Great Lakes Brewing Company
- The Climate Change Symposium, Cleveland Natural History Museum

Ozone Levels for 2006 - **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
May 29	86	1	88
May 30	99	2	88
June 17	99	1	90
July 16	90	1	90
July 17	81	0	94

- The Earth Day Coalition's Earth Day celebration
- NASA-Glenn Earth Week Celebration
- Shaker Lakes Earth Day Celebration
- AJCFB Annual Safety and Health Fair, DFAS Federal Building

In addition, OAD Program staff provided brochures for the Student Environmental Congress Annual Conference sponsored by The Earth Day Coalition and gave presentations on air quality to the Cleveland Clean Air Century Campaign and the Cleveland Bar Environmental Section.

What's New for the OAD Program?

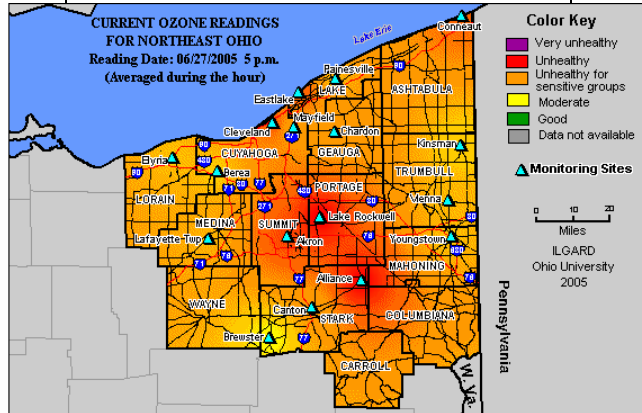
February 15, 2006, kicked off the new Fine Particle Pollution Program (FP3). This program, along side the OAD Program, will help educate the public on Northeast Ohio's nonattainment status for both criteria pollutants and what the region is doing to achieve clean air. To read more, visit www.noaca.org.

Together the OAD team will continue to make improvements to the OAD participant database and website. 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.

Not Sure If An Ozone Action Day Has Been Declared?

Log On To NOACA's website! OAD declarations are posted on NOACA's home page at: <http://www.noaca.org/oad.html>

You can "Check Today's Air Quality." For the most current information on ozone levels and get near-real-time air quality readings at <http://neoair.noaca.ohiou.edu/quality/currentmap.asp> (See example below)



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

SIGN UP ON-LINE to receive free emails or fax notifications of ozone alerts at 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. 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
- 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

You can also:

- Check the **Plain Dealer**, the **Beacon Journal**, the **News Herald** and **Cleveland.com** for the Ozone Action Day logo!
- Listen or watch 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.

If an Ozone Action Day is declared, then faxes and emails 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.

Questions on the OAD Program?

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