



Northeast Ohio Ozone Action Day Program

2006 End-of-Season Report

Rainy Summer Weather Keeps Ground-Level Ozone at a Low!



The **Ozone Action Day Program's** 12th Season wrapped up September 30, 2006, with cool wet weather. These

conditions were preceded by a roller coaster of weather events ranging from heat waves to severe floods. Seven **Ozone Action Days** (OADs) were declared for the Northeast Ohio region during this season.

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

2006 Season Declarations

The seven OADs declared were:

- **May 29**
- **May 30**
- **June 17**
- **July 16**
- **July 17***
- **July 31***
- **August 1***

* 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.

During this season, an additional day was not declared as an OAD, although due to higher than projected temperatures and low winds, it did exceed the 85 ppb standard. That day was:

▪ **June 16**

Consequently, only 5 days exceeded the federal health standard, resulting in a fairly "clean air" summer.

2006 OAD Outreach

This year's OAD Program focus was "Drive-time Reductions = Fuel Savings." The main goal was 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. This focus benefited from the rise in gasoline prices.

This season, outreach included continued distribution of OAD brochures and Media Kits to local media entities and to public agencies.

The OAD staff also hosted display tables at 13 events throughout the season ensuring that over 4,600 Program brochures were handed out to the public.

Questions?

Please contact:
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What's New for the OAD Program?

The manager of the Program, Pamela Davis, Senior Environmental Planner at NOACA, along with her team, Amy Wainright, Esq., Air Quality Planner, and Mary Wells, Environmental Planner, made further efforts to make the Program visible during the 2006 season by speaking to people directly on the health effects of ground-level ozone and through increased radio advertising.

The OAD staff continued to improve the participant database and OAD website, making these services more accessible and more efficient. Maps are now available for real-time 1-hour data as well as rolling 8-hour averages that indicate healthy or unhealthy air.

Staff updated the OAD Program brochure, making it more reader-friendly, as well as the educational resource "Air Quality in Northeast Ohio: A Handbook for Educators and their Students in Grades 4-8," originally published under the EMPACT grant with the Earth Day Coalition.

Staff is currently exploring the possibility of creating a public service announcement or instructional video and purchasing promotional items that display the Program logo to assist in public outreach efforts.

Ozone Levels & Weather Conditions for 2006 **Ozone Action Days** (Unofficial Data)

Month	Average Temperature (Degrees F)	Maximum/Minimum High Temperatures (Degrees F)	Number of 85 degrees or more	Total Monthly Precipitation (Inches)	Number of Days with some Precipitation	Ozone Action Days	Number of Monitors over Standard (>.085 ppb)	Maximum 8-Hr Concentration ppb
May	67.9	88 / 52	4	4.54	18 (of 31)	29 th 30 th	1 2	86 99
June	75.5	88 / 63	3	4.84	13 (of 30)	16 th 17 th	1 1	88 99
July	82.7	91 / 69	12	4.46	19 (of 31)	16 th 17 th 31 st	1 0 0	90 81 74
August	81.4	92 / 73	7	2.21	10 (of 31)	1 st	0	71
September	70.1	80 / 58	0	3.14	20 (out of 30)	-	-	67