



Northeast Ohio Ozone Action Day Program

2003 Mid-Summer Update

Dreary June Weather Keeps Ozone Action Day Program Moving Slowly

The **Ozone Action Day's** Ninth Season kicked off May 15th with extremely mild and damp weather conditions. These conditions continued through June into early July, with only **five Ozone Action Days** being declared in Northeast Ohio. At this point last season, the OAD season was in full blast with a sweltering 12 Ozone Action Days.

2003 OAD Season Highlights

The program has certainly experienced a change of pace this season. Cloud cover and storms have accompanied the dreary damp weather conditions. And, although this year's average temperatures have been relatively similar in comparison to 2002; the significant difference in the number of Ozone Action Days can be attributed to this year's stormy weather.

Local weather forecasters were continually reporting June's precipitation levels, which have more than doubled last year's totals at this time. Cloud cover, precipitation and storms help to decrease the formation of ground-level ozone.

As stated earlier, there have been five Ozone Action Days to date. These dates include:

- June 24
- June 25
- June 26
- July 4
- July 5

Each of these Ozone Action Days were declared because monitor readings were expected to exceed the 85ppb (parts per billion) on the US EPA's Air Quality Index standard. These levels of pollution are considered unhealthy for the elderly and those individuals with respiratory conditions.

Local Media on the Ball in 2003

In recent years, the local media have done their part in helping the OAD program inform the public when Ozone Action Days are declared and this year has been no exception.

Local newspapers, news channels, and radio stations were all quick to cover and relay Ozone Action Day information to the public. The Plain Dealer has been extremely involved this year with program, posting the logo on Ozone Action Days. Articles have also been posted alerting the public of the health threat and actions they can perform to reduce ground-level ozone.

What's New for the OAD Program?

This year we have added a few new things to the program. The most significant has been a change of staffing personnel. Pamela Davis, Senior Environmental Planner, has replaced Bill Davis (no relation) as the Ozone Action Day (OAD) coordinator. Pam has a Masters in Urban Planning, Design and Development from Cleveland State University. She received her national certification as a Planner in 2000. She also has over ten years of environmental planning experience.

While being under new leadership, many new ideas are being brought

**Ozone Levels for Current 2003 Ozone Action Days
(Unofficial Data)**

Date	Maximum 8-Hr Concentration PPB (parts per billion)	Number of Monitors over Standard (>85 ppb)	Maximum Temperature
Monday, April 28	85	1	78
Monday, June 23	120	9	86
Tuesday, June 24	123	9	87
Wednesday, June 25	112	9	90
Thursday, June 26	80	0	91
Thursday, July 3	99	8	90
Friday, July 4	73	0	92

to the table and being bounced around. One new update to the program is a more visible posting of the OAD logo on the NOACA homepage (www.noaca.org).

Staff is also working on developing a poster idea on the value of E-Check. The poster is being developed as an educational vehicle (no pun intended) for automobile owners. Tentative plans include mounting “Why E-Check?” in each of the 80 E-Check testing lanes in Northeast Ohio. These posters will also help to develop knowledge about the OAD program.

Also, staff is beginning to rework and update current press and educational packets. The OAD program has educational packets (grade school age), press packets, information pamphlets and educational videos available to the public. Staff is considering developing a scientific-based educational packet for junior high and high school teachers.

Not Sure If An Ozone Action Day Has Been Declared?

Here’s where you can find out:

For the most current information on unhealthy ozone levels, check today’s air quality by visiting <http://neoair.noaca.ohiou.edu>

Click “[Today’s Air Quality](#)” from the list of links. This action should take you to a web page where you can check the most recent Ozone monitor readings 2 ways: By clicking onto a link to a map of “[Today’s Air Quality](#)” or by

clicking a link to “[Air Monitors](#)” and checking the Health Index (for Today) column.

You can also visit NOACA’s website www.noaca.org to learn more information about Ozone Action Days and what you can do to help. Look for the Ozone logo.

Refresher: Here’s How the Program Works:

Each day, current air quality and weather forecast information is used to estimate the following day’s Ozone levels.

If the Ozone estimates suggests that regional Ozone levels may be in the “unhealthy for sensitive groups” range or higher, a teleconference is held between NOACA, local air agencies, and the National Weather Service.

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

If an Ozone Action Day is declared, faxes, and/or e-mails are sent to participating agencies, interested individuals and the local

media. The notices alert participants of the declaration, remind them of what they can do to help and provide updates on conditions during multi-day events.

Do You Want to Be Notified?

If you would like to receive notification when Ozone



Action Days have been declared, call Pamela Davis at 216.241.2414 or email her pdavis@mpo.noaca.org and ask to be added to our list.

What Should We All Do?

There are many actions the public can take to help reduce the formation of ground-level ozone on Ozone Action Days. These actions include:

- Avoid yard maintenance with gas-powered equipment until after 7 PM
- Avoid refueling your vehicle until after 7 PM
- Carpool or RIDESHARE (1-800-825-RIDE)
- Reduce power demand
- Take advantage of public transportation

- Walk or Ride a bike for short trips
- Find alternatives for charcoal or solvent usage on these days
- Avoid over-exertion and physical activity.

“Today’s Air Quality” Ozone Levels 7/3/03

