



## Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency's Air Quality Programs

### 2007 Mid-Season Update

*Change is in the air!*  
**NOACA in partnership with Ohio University is now forecasting Ozone and Fine Particle Pollution.**

The **Ozone Action Day** (OAD) Program and **Fine Particle Pollution Program** (FP3) are now combining into a dual forecasting Air Quality Advisory Program. Issued **Air Quality Advisories** specify whether both or just one of the pollutants are forecasted to reach unhealthy levels.

The first joint ozone and fine particle Air Quality Advisory was issued on May 31. The Plain Dealer printed both Programs' logos on the front page of the Metro section and continues to assist in broadcasting the Advisories.

This year the Ozone Action Day and Fine Particle Pollution Programs' goal is to reach out to younger audiences who are just learning about the environment.



**Introducing Wheezer the Forecasting Groundhog!** He is the Programs' new mascot! He made his first appearance at NOACA's annual Summit. Wheezer is featured in the new coloring book "Wheezer's Action Plan." The coloring book is geared to ages 2-7 years old and their families. Wheezer's role is to carry the Programs' message, captivate youth, and bring families to

NOACA's website. Stay tuned for more about Wheezer.

NOACA has purchased new software to best serve and manage the Air Quality Advisory signup list. The software will allow subscribers to easily unsubscribe, forward Advisories to friends, and take surveys administered by the Air Quality Programs.

#### 2007 Air Quality Advisories

The following Air Quality Advisories have been issued for Fine Particles (FP) and Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>):

- **May 25 - FP**
- **May 31 - FP and O<sub>3</sub>**
- **June 1 - FP and O<sub>3</sub>**
- **June 2 - FP**
- **June 14 - FP**
- **June 26 - FP**
- **June 27 - FP**
- **July 10 - FP**

These Advisories were issued because ozone monitor readings were expected to exceed 85 ppb (parts per billion) and/or fine particle readings were expected to exceed 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in a 24-hour period, which put them at "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" on USEPA's Air Quality Index. These levels of pollution are considered unhealthy for children, elderly and those individuals with respiratory conditions. For data on other days that exceeded the standards, please see the chart on the next page.

#### 2007 Program Outreach

The Air Quality Programs hosted booths and distributed materials at the following events:

- Ohio Parks Recreation Association annual conference
- Clean Fuels Forum
- Earth Day at NASA-Glenn
- Earth Day at Phillips Medical
- South Euclid Green Fest
- EarthFest at the Zoo
- Air and Waste Management Association annual conference
- GCRTA's Join the Ride Rally
- American Lung Association's Asthma Walk
- Lorain County Board of Health's Health and Wellness Fair

The Air Quality Programs have also joined with Rideshare to announce **Commuter Challenge Week, August 20- 24!** Visit the website: [www.noaca.org/commutechall.html](http://www.noaca.org/commutechall.html)

The Air Quality Programs will be participating with the Bicycle Advisory Committee to staff a table and activities at this year's **Walk and Roll** in Cleveland.

#### Air Quality Programs in the Press

At least 15 different publications throughout the region ran articles informing the public of the new early warning system for fine particle pollution.

Hillcrest and Euclid Hospitals, having seen the Programs' newspaper ads, requested and received 100 FP3 and 100 OAD brochures for each of the hospitals' Cardio Pulmonary Rehabilitation Units.

## Not Sure If an Air Quality Advisory Has Been Issued?

Log On To NOACA's website!  
Air Quality Advisories are posted on  
NOACA's home page at:  
[www.noaca.org](http://www.noaca.org)

There, you can also "Check Today's  
Air Quality" for the most current  
ozone and fine particle levels,  
updated hourly.

### You can also:

- Dial the Cleveland Division of Air Quality recording at **216-441-7474** for readings for Cuyahoga County.
- Check the **Plain Dealer**, the **Beacon Journal**, and the **News Herald** for the Ozone Action Day and/or FP3 logo!
- Listen to or watch traffic and weather reports.

### How the Air Quality Programs Work:

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

Ozone levels are forecasted in-house by NOACA staff, while Ohio University is forecasting fine particle pollution. NOACA's partners assist in deciding whether to call an Advisory.

If an Air Quality Advisory is issued, 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.

Both NOACA's and Ohio University's forecasts are uploaded to AIRNow. [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov)

## Do You Want to Be Notified When an Air Quality Advisory has been issued?

**SIGN UP ON-LINE** to receive free emails or fax notifications of ozone alerts at [www.noaca.org/oad.html](http://www.noaca.org/oad.html) or [www.noaca.org/fp3.html](http://www.noaca.org/fp3.html) .

### What Should We All Do?

The Ozone Action Day Program and Fine Particle Pollution Program depend 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:

- **Carpool at** [www.OhioRideshare.org](http://www.OhioRideshare.org)
- Combine trips
- Ride transit
- Walk or ride a bike
- Don't top off your gas tank

### Questions about the Air Quality Programs?

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