



Search or [View Directory](#)  
   
 49 ° Mostly Cloudy

The following article is from the [news archive](#). Please note that some links may no longer work.

## Help Prevent Summer Ozone Pollution

You can take simple steps to help reduce ozone-causing emissions.

### More Information

Learn more about ground-level ozone and discover what steps you can take to help keep our skies clear:

- [Ozone Aware Web Site](#)



JULY 11, 2005 -- Have you noticed a bit of haze in the metro area sky lately? That's ozone pollution -- a summer health hazard that forms along Colorado's Front Range region on hot, dry days.

Ground-level ozone pollution is formed when emissions from everyday items such as gasoline, vehicle exhaust, paints and solvents react with other pollutants and "cook" in the heat and sunlight.

Ozone in the Earth's upper atmosphere is helpful and protects us from ultraviolet radiation, but high levels of ground-level ozone can be a serious health threat, particularly for the elderly, young children, and those with asthma or other respiratory disorders.

### Related Links

- [Regional Air Quality Council](#)
- [Colorado Air Pollution Control Division](#)
- [Denver Department of Environmental Health](#)
- [Denver Bicycle Program](#)

On high-ozone days, healthy people who work or exercise outdoors often experience stinging eyes and throats, chest pains, coughing, and reduced breathing capability.

Prolonged exposure may also result in reduced resistance to lung infections and colds.

Since the beginning of Denver's 2005 ozone season on June 1, nine "Ozone Action Alerts" have been issued for Denver area residents -- six for this month to date.

These alerts are issued by the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC), an air quality planning agency for the seven-county Denver metropolitan area.

**TIGHTEN YOUR GAS CAP.**  
 LET'S TAKE CARE OF OUR SUMMER AIR.  
 OzoneAware.org

**MOW IN THE EVENING.**  
 LET'S TAKE CARE OF OUR SUMMER AIR.  
 OzoneAware.org

**CHECK YOUR TIRE PRESSURE.**  
 LET'S TAKE CARE OF OUR SUMMER AIR.  
 OzoneAware.org

**TUNE UP YOUR CAR.**  
 LET'S TAKE CARE OF OUR SUMMER AIR.  
 OzoneAware.org

**REFUEL IN THE EVENING.**  
 LET'S TAKE CARE OF OUR SUMMER AIR.  
 OzoneAware.org

RAQC issues the alerts when meteorologists from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) determine that weather conditions may lead to increased ground-level ozone concentrations. Each alert is issued at 4 p.m. and remains in effect for 24 hours.

On Ozone Action Alert days, residents, local governments and businesses are asked to take voluntary action to reduce ozone pollution in the area, including simple steps such as:

- Refuel in the evenings after dusk
- Stop at the click – do not overfill gas tanks when refueling
- Tighten gas caps after refueling
- Keep vehicles regularly maintained
- Mow in the evening, or delay mowing to another day
- Use new, earth-friendly lawn equipment
- Avoid solvent-based products. Use water-based paints and sealants
- Drive less: combine errands, use public transit, carpool or telecommute
- Use human power: walk or bike to your destination

"We're asking people to take care of our summer air by taking some simple steps, which will help curb summertime ozone pollution and ensure we can all breathe easier this summer," said Ken Lloyd, executive director of the RAQC.

The RAQC's Voluntary Ozone Reduction Program began in 1999, and this year's campaign is *Let's Take Care of Our Summer Air*. In addition to action alerts, they have launched a new, educational Web site with information about the Front Range's ground-level ozone challenge.

Visit [www.OzoneAware.org](http://www.OzoneAware.org) or call (303) 629-5450 for more information about ground-level ozone, to sign up online to receive free e-mail Ozone Action Alerts, and to discover what other steps you can take to help keep our skies clear.

---

Written by [Betsy Kimak](#), Internet Site Administrator, Customer Information Services.

-- Last updated on August 19, 2005



[Denver Headlines](#) | [News Archive](#) | [Receive News By E-Mail](#)

[Printer Friendly Version](#)  
[Email This Page](#)

DENVER MAPS

Select Category:

Address/Intersection:

GO