

WHO CAN USE THIS INFORMATION?

Anyone interested in air pollution can use this information. Sensitive individuals may find it very helpful in planning their outdoor and/or strenuous activities. Sensitive individuals may include asthmatics, people with heart or respiratory disease, the elderly, and children. People who work or play a lot outdoors can use it as well. Groups that are affected by air pollution that could benefit from using the AQI include the elderly, nursing homes, schools, day cares, as well as athletes and people who work outside.

The AQI report is the mechanism for calling Air Quality Action Days (Ozone Alerts in the summer and Carbon Monoxide Alerts in the winter). Everyone is encouraged to do their part to reduce pollution, but especially on Alert days.

Things that you can do to reduce pollution on alert days include:

- Ride the bus, it's free in Tulsa and only a quarter in Oklahoma City on Alert Days
- Carpool
- Ride a bike
- Avoid the use of lawn mowers, weed eaters, motorcycles, and outboard motors
- Avoid refueling your car until late evening on Ozone Alert Days
- Avoid using drive-up windows
- Avoid unnecessary trips
- Trip chain - combine errands into a single trip
- Maintain vehicles with regular tune-ups, oil changes, and properly inflated tires
- Increase awareness by talking about alert days to others
- Avoid outdoor burning and using your fireplace on Carbon Monoxide Alert Days.

WHERE IS THE AQI REPORTED?

In Oklahoma, the AQI is reported in the Tulsa, Oklahoma City and Lawton areas. You can get the AQI on the Air Quality Section of the DEQ web site (www.deq.state.ok.us) or by calling:

Tulsa 918-744-7664

Oklahoma City 405-702-4234

You can also get the AQI by listening to NOAA Weather Radio, 162.4 MHz. The AQI and any precautionary statements are reported there each weekday morning.



HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Additional information concerning the AQI may be obtained by contacting the Oklahoma City DEQ office (405-702-4100).

Information is also available from EPA on their Internet site at: <http://www.epa.gov/airnow/>
Visit our web site at: www.deq.state.ok.us



OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AIR QUALITY DIVISION

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WHAT IS THE AIR QUALITY INDEX?

Previously called the Pollutant Standards Index, the Air Quality Index, or AQI, is a daily public report that the Department of Environmental Quality is required (by EPA) to make in each metropolitan area with a population of more than 350,000. The AQI is based upon the previous day's monitored concentrations of the criteria pollutants (i.e. particulate matter, ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide). The AQI report can also be used to predict the levels of the criteria pollutants. This is important when the pollutants are expected to reach unhealthy levels, because it gives sensitive people time to take precautions.

POLLUTANT-SPECIFIC CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS FOR THE AIR QUALITY INDEX

AQI	Descriptor	Ozone	Particulate Matter	Carbon Monoxide
0 - 50	Good	None	None	None
51 - 100	Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should consider limiting prolonged outdoor exertion.	None	None
101 - 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should limit prolonged exertion.	People with cardiovascular disease, such as angina, should limit heavy exertion and avoid sources of CO, such as heavy traffic.
151 -200	Unhealthy	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should avoid prolonged outdoor exertion; everyone else, especially children, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid prolonged exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged exertion.	People with cardiovascular disease, such as angina, should limit moderate exertion and avoid sources of CO, such as heavy traffic.
201 - 300	Very Unhealthy	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should avoid all outdoor exertion; everyone else, especially children, should limit outdoor exertion.	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid any outdoor activity; everyone else should avoid prolonged exertion.	People with cardiovascular disease, such as angina, should avoid exertion and sources of CO, such as heavy traffic.
301 - 500	Hazardous	Everyone should avoid all outdoor exertion.	Everyone should avoid any outdoor exertion; people with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should remain indoors.	People with cardiovascular disease, such as angina, should avoid exertion and sources of CO, such as heavy traffic; everyone else should limit heavy exertion.