



# News Release

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**For Immediate Release**

**Thursday, March 30, 2023**

## Division of Air Quality Issues Seasonal Wildfire Smoke, Ozone Advisory

Dual Advisory Will be in Effect from April 1 to Sept. 30

Clark County's Division of Air Quality (DAQ) issued a season-long advisory for ground-level ozone pollution and wildfire smoke today that will be in effect from **Saturday, April 1 through Saturday, Sept. 30**. Air quality forecasters say the increased chance of wildfire smoke drifting into Southern Nevada can influence ozone formation as well as increase particulate matter pollution.

"In five of our past six summers, wildfire smoke has had a negative impact on Clark County's air quality," said Paul Fransioli, DAQ senior air quality forecaster. "Though the smoke influence was significantly lower last year, it still contributed to some of our ozone exceedance days in 2022."

DAQ registered 14 days in 2022 when ground-level ozone exceeded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS); a 50 percent decline from 2021's total of 28 exceedance days.

Ozone is a colorless, odorless gas that exists naturally in the Earth's stratosphere. At ground level, ozone is a key ingredient of urban smog that can build up during the day in the hottest months of the year due to strong sunlight, hot temperatures, gasoline and chemical vapors, pollutants from automobiles, wildfires and regional transport. Exposure to ozone can irritate your respiratory system and cause coughing, a sore throat, chest pain and shortness of breath even in healthy people, according to the EPA.

Smoke is made of small particulates and other pollutants that can aggravate respiratory diseases and contribute to ground-level ozone formation. Exposure to smoke can induce coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath even in healthy people.

According to the EPA, people who may be most sensitive to elevated levels of particulates and ozone include individuals with respiratory problems, cardiac disease, young children and senior citizens. Consult your physician if you have a medical condition that makes you sensitive to air quality conditions.

[more]



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**Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, NextDoor, Pinterest and YouTube.**

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### *Seasonal Smoke and Ozone Advisory Issued Through September, cont.*

#### **SMOKE AND OZONE TIPS**

- Stay indoors when you smell or see smoke.
- Limit outdoor activity and exertion when ozone levels are elevated – exercise makes you breathe heavier and increases the amount of ozone and particulates you may inhale.
- Keep windows and doors closed. Run your air conditioner inside your house and car. Air conditioning filters out smoke and particulates.
- Change your indoor air filters if they are dirty.
- Schedule activities for the morning or evening when ozone levels are usually lower.
- Substitute a less intense activity – walk instead of jog, for example.
- Always consult your doctor first for medical advice.

#### **HELPFUL TIPS TO REDUCE OZONE**

Because exhaust from cars, trucks and other vehicles are major contributors to ozone:

- Reduce driving – combine errands into one trip.
- Don't idle your car engine unnecessarily.
- Use mass transit or carpool.
- Fill up your gas tank after sunset. Try not to spill gasoline when filling up and don't top off your tank.
- Keep your car well maintained.
- Consider landscaping that uses less water and gas-powered equipment to maintain.
- Turn off lights and electronics when not in use. Less fuel burned at power plants means cleaner air.

#### **STAY UP TO DATE WITH AIR QUALITY INFORMATION**

The Division of Air Quality monitors air pollution through a network of monitoring stations throughout the Las Vegas Valley. Data is collected from these sites and reported at our monitoring website:

[DESAQMonitoring.ClarkCountyNV.gov](http://DESAQMonitoring.ClarkCountyNV.gov). People can also stay informed through additional channels:

- **Social Media:** Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SustainClarkCounty](https://www.facebook.com/SustainClarkCounty), Twitter: [@SustainClarkCty](https://twitter.com/SustainClarkCty) and Instagram: [@sustainclarkcounty](https://www.instagram.com/sustainclarkcounty).
- **EnviroFlash.org:** Daily text and email messages with the air quality information, advisories and alerts.
- **AIRNow:** Download the AIRNow app directly to your phone at [AIRNow's website](http://AIRNow's website).

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#### **About the Department of Environment and Sustainability**

The Department of Environment and Sustainability is the air pollution control agency, regional Endangered Species Act compliance program, and sustainability office for all of Clark County, Nevada. Established as the Department of Air Quality by the Clark County Commission in 2001, it was renamed in 2020 and is comprised of two divisions: Air Quality and Desert Conservation Program. Through these two divisions, DES is ensuring the air we share meets healthful, regulatory standards, administering the County's Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and addressing climate change through the All-In Clark County initiative.

Clark County is a dynamic and innovative organization dedicated to providing top-quality service with integrity, respect and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the nation's 11th-largest county and provides extensive regional services to 2.3 million citizens and 45.6 million visitors a year (2019). Included are the nation's 8th-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The County also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to 1 million residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development.

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