



REGIONAL AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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New Changes in Ozone Standard May Result in More Air Pollution Advisory Days

In March, U.S. EPA announced the most stringent 8-hour ozone standard, to date. This change is a result of the most recent scientific evidence about the effects of ozone and is designed to be more protective of public health and the environment.

Based on this new standard, RAPCA expects to issue significantly more Air Pollution Advisories (APA) for ozone in 2008. In 2007, the Dayton area experienced 3 days when ozone levels exceeded the 8-hour standard. If the new standard were in place last year, there would have been 15 days when ozone levels exceeded the standard.

Ozone can harm people's lungs, and EPA is particularly concerned about individuals with asthma or other lung diseases, as well as those who spend a lot of time outside, such as children. Ozone exposure can aggravate asthma, resulting in increased medication use and emergency room visits, and it can increase susceptibility to respiratory infections.

Ground-level ozone is not emitted directly into the air, but forms when emissions of

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nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) mix with sunlight. Power plants, motor vehicle exhaust, industrial facilities, gasoline vapors and chemical solvents are the major human-made sources of these emissions.

U.S. EPA also has updated the Air Quality Index (AQI) for ozone to reflect the change in the health standard. The new AQI scale became effective on April 1st.

RAPCA issues daily air pollution forecasts and will issue APA's whenever air pollution levels are expected to exceed air quality standards. Please visit <http://www.enviroflash.info/signup.cfm> to sign up for air pollution forecasts via email.

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