

AN AIR POLLUTION ACTION DAY HAS BEEN DECLARED

The Partners for Clean Air and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency are issuing an **Air Pollution Action Day** notice to alert individuals in the Chicago metropolitan area that low winds and high temperatures have the potential to produce elevated levels of air pollution, ozone and/or particulate matter, which could reach the orange level, "unhealthy air quality levels for sensitive populations."

An **Air Pollution Action Day** is declared when weather conditions are such that widespread ozone or fine particulate matter, PM_{2.5}, levels are expected to be at or above the "unhealthy for sensitive groups" category on the Air Quality Index.

The Chicago metropolitan is expected to meet these criteria, therefore, an **Air Pollution Action Day** is being declared. Ozone is at increased levels, posing a potential health hazard to sensitive populations, especially individuals with respiratory or pulmonary disorders. Those individuals should take special precautions and follow their physician prescribed regimen. Additional Air Pollution Action Days may be called in subsequent days if conditions warrant.

Ozone forms as a result of industrial and vehicle emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds in the presence of sunlight and warm temperatures. High concentrations of ozone can cause health problems for area residents, especially those with heart or respiratory ailments. Residents should keep cool and limit physical activity when air pollution levels are high.

As a result of an **Air Pollution Action Day** being called, Partners for Clean Air members, businesses and residents of the Chicago metropolitan area are asked to follow "Green Actions" (list follows) to reduce contributions to air pollution.

Green Actions:

Limit Driving. Rideshare (www.sharethedrive.org), walk or bike.

Take public transit: CTA, Metra and Pace.

Avoid excessive idling and abrupt starts.

Drive a hybrid or flexible fuel vehicle.

Use a charcoal chimney or electric starter instead of lighter fluid when grilling.

Limit use of household products that cause fumes.

Conserve energy at home to reduce energy demands on power plants.

Do not burn leaves and other yard waste.

Avoid using fire pits/fireplaces on Air Pollution Action Days.

Avoid using lawnmowers and other gasoline-powered equipment on Action Days.

Residents have an additional incentive for taking Green Actions through the **Green Pays on Green Days** program, which focuses on individual activities that help to reduce air pollution during summer months. Residents may enter the Green Pays on Green Days contest by visiting www.cleantheair.org and pledge to take just one or more of the Green Actions and be eligible to win a “Green Day” prize and the Grand Prize, a new Toyota Prius.

The Partners for Clean Air coalition consists of businesses, government and health advocate groups committed to improving the region’s air quality through voluntary actions. More information can be found at: www.cleantheair.org.

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