

SAMPLE OZONE ALERT || CODE ORANGE!

for
Thursday, May 1, 2005

This is a notice that weather conditions are favorable for a **Code Orange Air Quality Alert** in the **Winchester/Frederick County** area on **May 1**.

What does this mean?






The Valley AIRNow Air Quality Outreach Program issues air quality alerts when it is predicted the region's air quality may be harmful to the public in the afternoon and early evening hours. Our primary pollutant is ground-level ozone. An Air Quality Index over 100 indicates pollution in the atmosphere is considered unhealthy for sensitive groups and merits a Code Orange Alert (see below).

What should the MEDIA do?

- First, **share this alert** within the public immediately!
- For active children and adults, **limit or reduce outdoor activity** during the afternoon and early evening hours. Ozone can irritate your respiratory system, reduce lung function, and aggravate asthma – and ozone damage to your body can occur without obvious symptoms.
- For those with **compromised respiratory systems**, limit outdoor activity.
- As always, encourage such activities as **carpooling** and **bicycling** among staff to reduce ground-level ozone. Urge employers to allow employees to **telework**.
- Remind everyone to **refuel vehicles in the evening** to limit fumes mixing with sun light to produce harmful ozone - and don't "top off" the tank, allowing fumes to escape.
- Direct businesses and individuals to **delay mowing** with gas-powered mowers or using other heavy equipment that may emit pollution.
- Ask the public to **avoid drive-through windows** at restaurants, banks, cleaners, etc.
- An idling engine can emit pollution into the air
- **Visit www.valleyairnow.com** for more tips!

Where we stand

The Air Quality Index offers a spectrum of color-coded conditions to alert us about pollutants in the air.

-  **GREEN** – Good (0-50)
-  **YELLOW** – Moderate (51-100)
-  **ORANGE** – Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150)
-  **RED** – Unhealthy (151-200)
-  **PURPLE** – Very Unhealthy (201-500)

Questions? Visit www.valleyairnow.com or contact us at 540.450.2207

1 + 1 + 1 + 1 ... = cleaner air

It takes only one person making one change in one task one day.