

WHAT CAN I DO

to reduce ozone pollution? Share air quality information with family and friends, and:

Limit driving by riding the bus, walking, or biking

Carpool – Find a carpool match at www.nuride.com/alamoarea

Save gas by avoiding rapid acceleration and braking

Combine errands rather than taking multiple short trips

Avoid idling in restaurant drive-thrus, bank ATMs, and in parking lots

Avoid traffic congestion by driving outside of peak periods

Refuel your vehicle in the evening

Keep your vehicle maintained, such as properly inflating tire pressure

Turn off electronic devices and lights when they're not being used

Don't burn yard waste

Use paint and cleaning products with less or zero VOCs

AACOG Mission Statement

The mission of AACOG is to enhance the quality of life of partnership all residents in the Alamo region in with elected and appointed officials, funders, and community partners and beneficiaries.



AACOG Joint Land Use Study

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OZONE POLLUTION



What is Ozone Pollution?

- Stratospheric ozone occurs naturally in Earth's atmosphere where it forms a protective layer that shields us from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays.
- Tropospheric ozone, otherwise known as "ground-level ozone", is created by the chemical reactions between nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the presence of sunlight and is a harmful pollutant.
- Ground-level ozone is sometimes referred to as "smog".

How does Ozone Affect Health?

Ground-level ozone can irritate the airways, causing painful or difficult breathing, coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath.

Ozone has also been linked to long-term respiratory distress, pediatric asthma, and cardiothoracic conditions. Some groups are more vulnerable to ozone pollution than others, including children, the elderly, people with pre-existing respiratory conditions and those who are frequently active outdoors. Children are especially vulnerable to ozone pollution because their lungs are still developing and they tend to be more active outdoors. During high ozone days, monitor your and your family's breathing and comfort level to reduce respiratory distress.



How is Ozone Formed?

Ozone is formed by chemical reactions between NOx and VOCs on sunny days. Common sources of NOx and VOCs include emission from industrial facilities and electric utilities, motor vehicle exhaust, gasoline vapors and chemical solvents. Ozone pollution may also be transported in from other areas.



How Can I Monitor Ozone Levels?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) provide email and text alerts for Ozone Action Days.

Sign up for EPA alerts at enviroflash.info/ or sign up for TCEQ alerts at tceq.texas.gov/goto/updates.



AQI
AIR QUALITY INDEX

Air Quality Index (AQI) Values	Levels of Health Concern
8 - 50	Good
51 - 100	Moderate
101 - 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
151 - 200	Unhealthy
201 - 300	Very Unhealthy
301 - 500	Hazardous