

Subject: NEW Air Quality Flag Program

How much pollution is in the air today? You can find out by simply looking at the flag pole. [Our organization] has adopted the Air Quality Flag Program, which means we will fly brightly colored flags to show how clean the air is each day.

The flags correspond to the colors of the Air Quality Index (www.airnow.gov). The AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality. It tells you how clean or polluted the air is, and what health effects might be a concern for you at that level.

Every business day we will fly a flag with one of the AQI colors:

Green – good air quality

Yellow – moderate air quality

Orange – unhealthy for some people, including children and those with asthma

Red – unhealthy for everyone

Purple – very unhealthy for everyone

On green and yellow days, we will encourage people to be outside and moving. When air quality is orange or red, it is still OK for most people to exercise and work outside, but take some breaks and do activities that are not as strenuous, like walking instead of running. If the flag is purple, you might consider staying inside that day.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency promotes the Air Quality Flag Program across the country, and we are proud to be involved. In addition to raising flags, we will have the chance to learn more about air pollution, how it affects our health, and what we can do to make the air cleaner.

For more information on the Flag Program, go to www.airnow.gov/flag.