

Air Quality Flag Program

Summer 2019 Newsletter

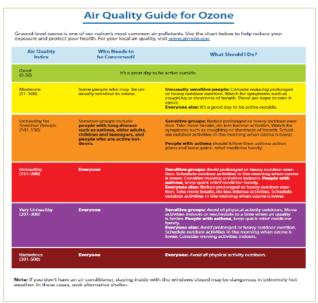


Ozone Season Has Begun

Higher ozone levels tend to become an issue in most areas of the country from March through November. Ozone at ground level is a harmful air pollutant that forms when pollutants emitted by cars, power plants, industrial boilers, refineries, chemical plants, and other sources react chemically in the presence of heat and sunlight.

Protect yourself and your community:

- Check the Air Quality Index to find out how much pollution is in the air (<u>www.airnow.gov</u>) and fly your flags.
- Use the <u>Activity Guidelines</u> when exercising and working outside.
- Do outdoor activities early in the morning and after 6 pm to avoid the highest ozone levels.
- Pay attention to breathing or lung problems you might have.



Spring Challenge Results



Welcome to all our new Flag Program participants! This year we had 10 different groups competing to register the most organizations with the program. Everyone did a great job! The top three winners were:

- Region 4 in conjunction with the Nashville/Davidson Metro Public Health Dept, the American Lung Association, Tennessee Department of Health, TN Department of Environment & Conservation, The Allergy, Asthma & Sinus Center, and Cumberland Pediatrics Foundation
- Region 3 in partnership with MACCHE, the PA Asthma partnership, VA DEQ and PA DEP
- 3. Broward County, FL

The winning teams will get a letter of recognition and certificate, and a set of flags goes to our first-place winner. Compliments to all the teams for their hard work!

On another note, we've gotten some feedback that May might not be the best time for a participant challenge. We're currently looking at options that include dates earlier in the spring (which would include Earth Day) or in the fall. Please let us know by emailing AQFlagProgram@epa.gov if you have an opinion as we explore possibilities.

Creative Communication

How does your organization communicate the Air Quality Index and the state of the air every day? During Air Quality Awareness Week (April 29- May 3), the city of Nashville, TN came up with highly visible ways to create interest in air quality.



The road sign above the highway says, "Air Quality Awareness Week: Reduce Trips" A local school posted this on the sign outside the school:



Way to be innovative, City of Nashville and Inglewood Elementary!

Does your organization have public space where you can share information on air quality and what to do when the air quality is poor? If so, please pass them along to AQFlagProgram@epa.gov and you may be featured in an upcoming newsletter!

AQFP Postcard

Planning outreach events for the summer and fall? Use the AQFP postcards to share the flag program message! Order your supply for free through NSCEP at http://www.epa.gov/nscep and search for 456F18003.



Flag Team Contacts

AQFlagProgram@epa.gov

Melissa Payne: payne.melissa@epa.gov

Beth Landis: landis.elizabeth@epa.gov

Miki Wayland: wayland.michelle@epa.gov

Ellen Wildermann: wildermann.ellen@epa.gov