

Frequently Asked Questions



What is ozone?

» Ozone is a gas made of 3 oxygen atoms created by the sun's heat and light acting upon gases and pollution in the atmosphere.

Is there a difference between ozone air pollution and the ozone layer?

» The ozone molecule is the same in air pollution and in the ozone layer, but the ozone layer is 6 to 30 miles above the surface of the earth. Ozone air pollution is near the surface of the earth and in the air we breathe.

Is there an “ozone season” in Utah?

» Yes. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Utah Division of Air Quality call May through September ozone season.

Is ozone only a problem in the summer?

» There are measurable levels of ozone every day of the year, but high risk levels of ozone occur only in the summer months in Utah.

Is a RED air day the same as a “health advisory”?

» No, they are different.

A RED air day calls for public action to reduce pollution. Health advisories make people aware of health risks associated with various levels of pollution.

Where can I check the current ozone level?

» Visit www.airquality.utah.gov and click on “current conditions.”

How can I know the level of ozone that I am sensitive to?

» You can track your symptoms and the current ozone level to determine your sensitivity. Symptoms could be felt immediately or one or more days after ozone exposure.

» A tracking sheet with instructions is available at www.health.utah.gov/asthma and current ozone levels are available at www.airquality.utah.gov. Use the information you collect to adjust your outdoor physical activity.

If I don't have symptoms but the ozone levels are high, is it okay for me to participate in outdoor physical activity?

» Respiratory inflammation will occur at high ozone levels even if you do not notice symptoms. You should consider limiting your outdoor physical activity when ozone levels are high.

What can I do to reduce ozone levels?

» Visit www.cleanair.utah.gov for tips on how to help improve air quality in your community.