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Air Pollution Precaution

The Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County is issuing an Air Pollution PRECAUTION due to possible elevated levels of **Particulate Matter of 2.5 microns or less.** This precautionary statement is effective Saturday 7/4/2026. There is a potential to reach high moderate or unhealthy levels for sensitive groups due to July 4th celebrations/fireworks.

Particulate Matter (PM) is one of the US EPA Criteria Air Pollutants and has an established National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) based on health criteria. Particulate matter is the term for a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air. Particulate matter can be defined as PM10 which are inhalable particles of 10 micrometers and smaller or PM2.5 which are inhalable particles of 2.5 micrometers and smaller. Particulate matter can be emitted directly from a source (construction sites, unpaved roads, fires, etc.) or can form in the atmosphere as a result of complex reactions of chemicals such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. Additional information regarding Particulate Matter can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution>

Since there is a potential for the Air Quality Index to reach high moderate or unhealthy for sensitive groups, unusually sensitive individuals, such as the elderly, children, and individuals with respiratory ailments may consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors this evening. Although the air quality has not reached either level, the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County is monitoring the particulate levels and will inform the public and media if conditions worsen. **This alert remains in effect until midnight, 7/4/2026.**

If you have any questions or need further information, please call: The Environmental Protection Commission, Air Division **Christian Rodriguez at (813) 627-2600 x1273.**

Environmental Excellence in a Changing World

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