

## Orange County: Air Pollution Advisory

The Environmental Protection Division of Orange County is issuing an Air Pollution Advisory due to elevated levels of Ozone. The Ozone levels are in the moderate range (51-100 AQI) with the Air Quality Index and will move into the unhealthy for sensitive groups range (101-150 AQI) this afternoon based on model projections.

Moderate and Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups AQI values recommend that people sensitive to air pollution and groups that have health effects (elderly, children, people with respiratory disease) should limit their outdoor exposure. The general public should also avoid prolonged exposure outside.

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ozone is one of the criteria air pollutants to be monitored via the Clean Air Act. Ground level ozone is not emitted directly into the air but is created by chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC). This happens when pollutants emitted by vehicles and industrial sources chemically react in the presence of sunlight. Ozone is most likely to reach unhealthy levels on hot sunny days in urban environments. It primarily affects children, the elderly and people of all ages who have lung diseases such as asthma. Additional information regarding Ground-Level Ozone can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution>

This advisory is in effect for today, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

If you have any questions or need further information, please call the Environmental Protection Division, Ambient Air Monitoring Department Representative Regina Gilliland at (407) 836-1484. For current air quality information, visit [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov).