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## **Air Pollution Precaution**

The Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County is issuing an Air Pollution PRECAUTION due to elevated levels of the pollutant **Ozone**. This precautionary statement becomes effective **immediately, today 5/31/2024**. Although the air quality has not reached unhealthy levels, the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County is issuing this precautionary statement due to the potential for the ozone levels to reach unhealthy for sensitive groups.

Ozone is one of the US EPA Criteria Air Pollutants and has an established National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) based on health criteria. 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>

Since we are experiencing high moderate levels with Air Quality Index values from **51 – 100**, unusually sensitive individuals, such as the elderly, children, and individuals with respiratory ailments may consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors this afternoon and this evening. **This alert remains in effect through midnight on Sunday, 6/2/2024.**

The conditions which are leading to today's elevated levels are expected for the next several days. Low humidity and high temperatures are forecasted throughout the weekend. If you have any questions or need further information, please call: The Environmental Protection Commission, Air Division **Jason Waters at (813) 627-2600 x1269.**

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