



# NEWS

## For Immediate Release

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## Air Quality Alert Issued Today for Kentuckiana

**Louisville (June 22, 2005)** – Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District is issuing an Air Quality Alert for Fine Particle pollution Wednesday, June 22, 2005.

The air quality forecast for today and tomorrow June 23, 2005 for Fine Particle Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) is in the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups range. Kentuckiana's levels of Fine Particles are presently at 104 on the Air Quality Index. Conditions for **ground-level ozone** are also of concern and an alert may be issued later today.

Sensitive groups are defined as active children and adults as well as people with serious health conditions, such as asthma. Prolonged outdoor activity and physical exertion should be limited. Ozone levels generally peak during late afternoon and early evening hours.

An Air Quality Alert is issued when particle pollution levels are expected to reach Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups range, which is an AQI of 101 or higher. Sensitive Groups include, the elderly, children, persons with asthma or other breathing problems, and persons with heart disease. These groups are advised to limit their outdoor activities to reduce their exposure to particle pollution.

### **What is Particulate Matter pollution?**

Particulate matter, or PM, is the term for particles found in the air, including dust, dirt, soot, smoke, and liquid droplets. Particles of special concern to the protection of lung health are those known as fine particles, less than 2.5 microns in diameter. (For comparison, a human hair is about 75 microns in diameter.) Fine particles are easily inhaled deeply into the lungs where they can be absorbed into the bloodstream or remain embedded for long periods of time.

### **Reduce your exposure to particle pollution by doing the following:**

Limit prolonged outdoor activity and physical exertion. Plan strenuous activities when particle levels are lower. Reduce the amount of time spent at vigorous activity, or choose a less strenuous activity, such as walking instead of jogging.

When particles are high outdoors, they may also be high indoors. Certain filters are available to help reduce particles indoors. You can reduce indoor particles by eliminating tobacco smoke, and reducing your use of candles, wood-burning stoves or charcoal grills.

**APCD recommends the following actions to help protect public health and improve Louisville's air quality on an Air Quality Alert day:**

- Drive less and combine errands in one car-trip, when possible. A car pollutes five times more when it's started after sitting for an hour than when the engine's warm.
- Ride the bus--call TARC at 585-1234 for route information. Carpool and vanpool with your neighbors or co-workers. Call Ticket to Ride at 267-5400 for ride-sharing information.
- Use ceiling fans or portable fans to help the AC work easier and consume less electricity.
- Don't top off fuel tanks. Re-fuel when it's cool. Tighten your gas cap securely to prevent harmful fumes from mixing in the air to form more summertime smog. Maintain optimal tire inflation and drive the speed limit for better fuel economy.
- Brown-bag your lunch or order in together as a group.
- Avoid using gas-powered lawn equipment. Mowing your yard for an hour creates the same amount of smog-forming hydrocarbons as driving from Louisville to Nashville in a newer car.

**Additional information for the public and media may be found at [www.apcd.org](http://www.apcd.org)**

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