

Addendum to “Exceptional Event Demonstration for Ozone Exceedances in Clark County, Nevada – September 2, 2020”

Public Notification of Exceptional Event

40 CFR 50.14(c)(1)(i) requires that air agencies must “notify the public promptly whenever an event occurs or is reasonably anticipated to occur which may result in the exceedance of an applicable air quality standard,” in accordance with the mitigation requirement at 40 CFR 51.930(a)(1). Here we provide details on the Clark County Department of Environment and Sustainability’s (DES) public notification for the potential exceptional event on September 2, 2020. Real-time air quality data, Air Quality Index (AQI) maps, daily air quality forecasts, and event notifications are available on the DES website (<https://clarkcountynvairquality.meteostar.com/>). Air quality forecasts and current data are also available through EPA’s AirNow and EnviroFlash systems. DES issues air quality advisories and alerts to warn the public and regulated community if unhealthy levels of a regulated pollutant are anticipated and to provide recommendations on reducing exposure and emissions. Advisories are issued when forecast conditions are favorable for pollutant levels to exceed the NAAQS – i.e., to reach the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG) level on the AQI, or when public health and safety might be in danger. Alerts are issued when air quality levels have already reached the AQI USG level or are expected to reach that level. **Figure A-1** provides the concentration and AQI values for all NAAQS pollutants in the Metropolitan/Non-Metropolitan and Greater Las Vegas Metro Area on September 2, 2020. This information was publicly available during the September 2 potential exceptional event. In addition to the near-real-time data available on the DES website, 5-day AQI forecasts were available on September 2 (and currently are available) to the public here: https://aqportal.clarkcountynv.gov/DES_AQ_Forecast.

Figure A-2 shows the public Air Quality Advisory/News Release for the 2020 ozone season, and **Figure A-3** shows the public Air Quality Advisory/News Release for September 3, 2020. Additional media coverage and publicly available AirNow AQI maps for the September 2 potential exceptional event date are included in Section 3.1.2, Section 3.1.4, and Appendix A of the main report.

Reporting for September 2, 2020																		
September 2 2020 Select a Different Date																		
Metropolitan Area or Non-Metropolitan County	Air Quality Rating	Critical Pollutant	Air Quality Index															
			Ozone				Carbon Monoxide		Sulfur Dioxide		Nitrogen Dioxide		PM-10 (Std Cond)		PM-2.5 (Lcl Acpt)		PM-2.5 (Lcl Cond)	
			1-Hour		8-Hour		8-Hour		1-Hour		1-Hour		24-Hour		24-Hour		24-Hour	
			AQI	ppb	AQI	ppb	AQI	ppm	AQI	ppb	AQI	ppb	AQI	µg/m ³ (25° C)	AQI	µg/m ³ LC	AQI	µg/m ³ LC
Clark County -- Region 1																		
Apex	Good	Ozone	*	41	36	39												
Boulder City	Moderate	Ozone	*	59	51	55						19	20.45					
Greater Las Vegas (1)	Unhealthy for sensitive groups	Ozone	*	86	115	75	10	0.901	2	1.1	56	58.5	44	47.70			45	11.06
Indian Springs	Good	Ozone	*	41	37	40												
Jean	Good	Ozone	*	50	44	48							26	27.77			33	8.29
Mesquite	Good	Ozone	*	49	42	45												
Monitoring Sites in the Greater Las Vegas Metro Area	Air Quality Rating	Critical Pollutant	Air Quality Index															
			Ozone				Carbon Monoxide		Sulfur Dioxide		Nitrogen Dioxide		PM-10 (Std Cond)		PM-2.5 (Lcl Acpt)		PM-2.5 (Lcl Cond)	
			1-Hour		8-Hour		8-Hour		1-Hour		1-Hour		24-Hour		24-Hour		24-Hour	
			AQI	ppb	AQI	ppb	AQI	ppm	AQI	ppb	AQI	ppb	AQI	µg/m ³ (25° C)	AQI	µg/m ³ LC	AQI	µg/m ³ LC
Clark County	Unhealthy for sensitive groups	Ozone	*	86	115	75	10	0.901	2	1.1	56	58.5	44	47.70			45	11.06
Casino Center	Moderate	Nitrogen Dioxide									52	54.7						
Green Valley	Moderate	Ozone	*	86	93	68							35	37.55			37	9.27
Jerome Mack	Moderate	Ozone	*	80	87	66			2	1.1	38	40.3	40	43.26			40	10.02
Joe Neal (1)	Moderate	Ozone	*	74	77	63							36	39.09			31	7.77
Palo Verde	Moderate	Ozone	*	69	77	63							28	30.40				
Paul Meyer	Unhealthy for sensitive groups	Ozone	*	85	108	73							33	35.24			35	8.67
Rancho & Teddy	Moderate	Nitrogen Dioxide					9	0.795			56	58.5					45	11.06
Sunrise Acres	Good	Nitrogen Dioxide					10	0.901			47	50.3	44	47.70			43	10.74
Walter Johnson	Unhealthy for sensitive groups	Ozone	*	83	115	75							29	31.10			32	7.91

Figure A-1. Air quality Index values reported by the Clark County Department of Environment and Sustainability on September 2, 2020.



News Release

County Commission:
 Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Chairman
 Lawrence Weekly, Vice Chairman
 Larry Brown
 James B. Gibson
 Justin Jones
 Michael Naft
 Tick Segerblom
 Yolanda King, County Manager

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For Immediate Release

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

Seasonal Ozone Advisory Issued Through September

The Clark County Department of Environment and Sustainability issued a season-long advisory for ground-level ozone pollution today that will be in effect from Wednesday, April 1 – Wednesday, Sept. 30.



Ozone is a colorless gas that exists naturally in the Earth's upper atmosphere. At ground level, ozone is a key ingredient of urban smog that can build up during the day in the hottest months of the year because of strong sunlight, hot temperatures, gasoline and chemical vapors, and pollutants from automobiles, wildfires and regional transport. Exposure to ozone can irritate your respiratory system and cause coughing, a sore throat, chest pain and shortness of breath even in healthy people, according to the EPA.

"Even though we're continuing to Stay Home for Nevada as we and the rest of the country work through the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to remind the community that ozone increases during the warmer months," said Department of Environment and Sustainability Director Marci Henson. "Our Air Quality Division continues to be an essential service to Clark County by enforcing federal, health-based standards. We also remind people they play an important role in helping reduce ground-level ozone."

HELPFUL TIPS TO REDUCE OZONE

Because cars, trucks and other vehicles are major contributors to ozone, people can follow these helpful, everyday tips to reduce ozone:

- Reduce driving – combine errands into one trip.
- Don't idle your car engine unnecessarily.
- Use mass transit or carpool.
- Fill up your gas tank after sunset. Try not to spill gasoline when filling up and don't top off your tank.
- Keep your car well maintained.
- Consider landscaping that uses less water and gas-powered equipment to maintain.
- Turn off lights and electronics when not in use. Less fuel burned at power plants means cleaner air.

[more]

Clark County news releases may be found at www.ClarkCountyNV.gov. You may also follow the County on more than 40 social media sites, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, NextDoor, Pinterest and YouTube.

Figure A-2. Seasonal Ozone Advisory issued by the Clark County Office of Public Communication on March 31, 2020, for the 2020 Ozone Season (April 1 to September 30, 2020).

News Release

Environment and Sustainability Seasonal Ozone Advisory, cont.

Also, if you have respiratory issues or other health concerns, consider these tips during ozone season:

- Reduce the time you are active outdoors when ozone levels are elevated, especially if you are engaged in a strenuous activity or have a respiratory disease.
- Schedule activities for the morning or evening when ozone levels are usually lower.
- Substitute a less intense activity – walking instead of jogging, for example.
- Always consult your doctor first for medical advice.

STAY UP TO DATE WITH AIR QUALITY INFORMATION

The Department of Environment and Sustainability monitors air pollution through a network of monitoring sites throughout the Las Vegas Valley. Data is collected from these sites and reported at our monitoring website: AirQuality.ClarkCountyNV.gov. People can stay informed through a couple channels:

- Twitter and Facebook: Read air quality updates in your Facebook news feed or tweets. On Facebook: www.facebook.com/SustainClarkCounty and Twitter: [@SustainClarkCty](https://twitter.com/SustainClarkCty).
- EnviroFlash: Receive daily text or email messages with the latest air quality information. Learn more at www.enviroflash.org. The Dept. of Environment and Sustainability also issues advisories and alerts for ozone and other pollutants such as dust, smoke and other particulate matters.
- AIRNow: Check air quality forecasts, current conditions and the Air Quality Index (AQI) for Clark County at AIRNow's website.

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Clark County is a dynamic and innovative organization dedicated to providing top-quality service with integrity, respect and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the nation's 11th-largest county and provides extensive regional services to more than 2.3 million citizens and 45 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 9th-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The County also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to about 1 million residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development.

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Figure A-2 (cont). Seasonal Ozone Advisory issued by the Clark County Office of Public Communication on March 31, 2020, for the 2020 Ozone Season (April 1 to September 30, 2020).



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For Immediate Release

Thursday, Sep. 3, 2020

Smoke, Ozone Advisory Issued for Thursday and Friday Due to Wildfire Smoke

The Clark County Department of Environment and Sustainability (DES) is issuing an **advisory for Thursday, Sep. 3 – Friday, Sep. 4** for elevated levels of smoke and ozone due to the regional wildfires in the southwest U.S. DES Division of Air Quality officials say smoke is made of small dust particles and other pollutants that can aggravate respiratory diseases and contribute to ground-level ozone formation.



According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, people who may be most sensitive to elevated levels of particulates and ozone include individuals with respiratory problems, cardiac disease, young children or senior citizens. Consult your physician if you have a medical condition that makes you sensitive to air quality conditions.

Smoke is made of small particles and other pollutants that can aggravate respiratory diseases and contribute to ground-level ozone formation. Exposure to ozone can induce coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath even in healthy people. A seasonal ozone advisory is currently in effect.

SMOKE AND OZONE TIPS

- Stay indoors when you smell or see smoke.
- Limit outdoor activity and exertion when ozone levels are elevated – exercise makes you breathe heavier and increases the amount of particulates you may inhale.
- Keep windows and doors closed. Run your air conditioner inside your house and car. Air conditioning filters out smoke and particles.
- Change your indoor air filters if they are dirty.
- Schedule activities for the morning or evening when ozone levels are usually lower.
- Substitute a less intense activity – walk instead of jog, for example.
- Reduce driving – combine errands into one trip.
- Don't idle your car engine unnecessarily.

[more]

Air Quality Smoke, Ozone Advisory Issued for Tuesday and Wednesday, cont.

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Figure A-3. Smoke and Ozone Advisory issued by the Clark County Office of Public Communication on September 3, 2020, for September 3-4, 2020.

News Release

Air Quality Smoke, Ozone Alert, cont.

SMOKE AND OZONE TIPS, cont.

- Use mass transit or carpool.
- Fill up your gas tank after sunset. Try not to spill gasoline when filling up, and don't top off your tank.
- Keep your car well maintained.
- Consider landscaping that uses less water and gas-powered equipment to maintain.
- Turn off lights and electronics when not in use. Less fuel burned at power plants means cleaner air.

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About the Department of Environment and Sustainability

The Department of Environment and Sustainability is the air pollution control agency, regional Endangered Species Act compliance program, and sustainability office for all of Clark County, Nevada. Established as the Department of Air Quality by the Clark County Commission in 2001, it was renamed in 2020 and is comprised of three divisions: Air Quality, Desert Conservation Program and Office of Sustainability. Through these three divisions, DES is ensuring the air we share meets healthful, regulatory standards, administering the County's Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and addressing climate change.

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Figure A-3 (cont.). Smoke and Ozone Advisory issued by the Clark County Office of Public Communication on September 3, 2020, for September 3-4, 2020.