

Ground Level Ozone

Summer is finally here, and while that means sunny days and outdoor activities, it also means that ozone season is upon us. Ground-level ozone, an air pollutant created on hot summer days when sunlight and heat cause other air pollutants (including those emitted from cars, trucks and power plants) to react in the air, damages our lungs, particularly impacting children and people with existing health problems. The good news is that there are ways you can reduce your exposure to ozone and help improve our air quality by making simple changes in your routine. Below are some free services and materials that will make it easier for you to learn how to do this and help educate your constituents.

- *The Department's new website (www.cleanair.nj.gov) is a readily accessible source of information about the health and environmental effects of ozone. The site also provides simple tips for reducing your exposure and your contribution to ozone formation.*
- *The Department has three new color brochures that explain about the health effects of ozone and focus in on the number one source of air pollution in NJ -- transportation. The printable versions of our brochures can be found at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/cleanairnj/outreach.html>. If you'd prefer pre-printed copies for your next event, email us at emaco@dep.nj.gov.*
- *EnviroFlash is a free email alert system that delivers daily information about air quality in your communities and lets you know how to change your outdoor activities to protect the health. Go to www.enviroflash.info, fill in your email address and zip code, and select the type of message that you'd like to receive. You can also access EnviroFlash directly off the Department's new website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/cleanairnj/airquality.html>.*
- *The Department's new website also allows you to sign up for an email list to get periodic messages about the health effects of smog and actions that children and adults can take to reduce smog. To sign up, go to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/cleanairnj/subscribe.html>.*

Please help us spread the word about the health risks of ozone and the simple actions we can take to reduce our exposure to ozone by adding a link to our new website on your home page and distributing our brochures. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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