



SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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MONITORED OZONE EXCEEDANCE

“CODE ORANGE OZONE ADVISORY”

“UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS”

Friday, May 18, 2012

For Immediate Release as of 3:45 PM:

Friday, May 18, 2012

Memphis, TN. –In cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ); the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH); and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the Shelby County Health Department has issued a “**CODE ORANGE**” -- **OZONE ADVISORY**, due to a monitored exceedance of the 8-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone **for the Memphis Metropolitan Area**. The Memphis Metropolitan Area includes Shelby County, Tennessee, Crittenden County, Arkansas, and DeSoto County, Mississippi. The afternoon levels of ozone exceeded the eight-hour NAAQS at the Orgill, Frayser, and Shelby Farms monitor in Shelby County, TN, as well as the Marion monitor in Crittenden County, AR. Under existing Air Quality Index guidelines, current air quality throughout the Memphis Metropolitan Area has become “**Unhealthy For Sensitive Groups**” and is expected to remain so until after sunset this evening. *Pollution emissions, a stagnant atmosphere, clear skies, and high temperatures* are the primary factors responsible for this afternoon’s poor air quality. **MATA bus and trolley fares will be discounted today, as this advisory was previously forecasted.**

Health Precautions:	OZONE REDUCTION TIPS RECOMMENDED DURING “CODE ORANGE OZONE ADVISORIES”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Active Children and Adults • For Persons With Respiratory Difficulties • Limit prolonged outdoor activities during afternoon hours • High ozone levels can cause nose, eye, throat, and lung irritation • High ozone levels can aggravate existing conditions and lead to increased potential for illness in this sensitive group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refuel cars and lawnmowers after 7:00 pm, avoid spills and do not “top off” tanks • Carpool or mass transit • Combine errands instead of many separate trips • Drive less, especially during peak hours or hot days

For more information concerning air quality, contact the following sources:



Public Health

The Shelby County Health Department-Pollution

Control, (901) 222-9599

<http://www.midsouthcleanair.org/>

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality-Planning and Air Quality Analysis Branch-Air Division, (501) 682-0767

<http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/air/default.htm>

The Arkansas Department of Health (501) 661-2000

<http://www.healthyarkansas.com/environment/environment.html>

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality-Air Standards and Planning-Air Quality, (601) 961-5134

http://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/page/Air_Ozone?OpenDocument

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