



# News Release



Shelby County Health Department  
814 Jefferson Ave., Memphis, TN 38105

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 14, 2015

CONTACT: Elizabeth Hart  
(901) 222-9607 Office  
(901) 500-5227 Mobile

MONITORED FINE PARTICULATE MATTER EXCEEDENCE: CODE ORANGE  
**For Wednesday, October 14, 2015**  
**“Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups”**

**MEMPHIS** – 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” AIR QUALITY ADVISORY FOR FINE PARTICULATE MATTER** (also known as PM 2.5 or particle pollution), due to an expected monitored exceedance of the daily National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter **for the Memphis Metropolitan Area**. The Memphis Metropolitan Area includes Shelby County, Tennessee, Crittenden County, Arkansas, and DeSoto County, Miss. The hourly concentration levels of fine particulate matter have been very high and are expected to exceed the daily NAAQS at the Shelby Farms monitor in Shelby County, TN. This is due mostly to the mulch fire that is in close proximity to the monitor. 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 through at least midnight this evening. *Pollution emissions, strong high surface pressure, and wind direction* are the primary factors responsible for this afternoon’s poor air quality.

<p><b>Health Precautions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>For Active Children and Adults</b></li> <li>• <b>For Persons With Respiratory and Coronary Difficulties</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>PARTICLE POLLUTION REDUCTION TIPS</b></p> <p>RECOMMENDED DURING <b>“CODE ORANGE PM 2.5 ADVISORIES”</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit prolonged outdoor activities during afternoon hours</li> <li>• High particle pollution levels can cause nose, eye, throat, and lung irritation and aggravate heart disease.</li> <li>• High particle levels can aggravate existing conditions and lead to increased potential for illness in this sensitive group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid open burning</li> <li>• Carpool or mass transit</li> <li>• Combine errands instead of many separate trips</li> <li>• Drive less, especially during peak hours</li> </ul>

Under existing Air Quality Index guidelines, ozone levels are expected to reach the classification of **“Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups.”**

Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (Orange) <b>(Advisory)</b>	101 – 150	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory and coronary disease, such as asthma and heart disease, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.
---	-----------	--

For more information concerning air quality, contact one of the following:

SCHD Pollution Control at (901) 222-9599 or [www.midsouthcleanair.org](http://www.midsouthcleanair.org);

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality-Planning and Air Quality Analysis Branch-Air Division at (501) 682-0767 or [www.adeq.state.ar.us/air/default.htm](http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/air/default.htm);

The Arkansas Department of Health at (501) 661-2000 or [www.healthyarkansas.com/environment/environment.html](http://www.healthyarkansas.com/environment/environment.html);

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality-Air Standards and Planning-Air Quality at (601) 961-5134 or [www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/page/Air\\_Ozone?OpenDocument](http://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/page/Air_Ozone?OpenDocument).