



SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For More Information Contact:
Public Relations: (901) 222-8216
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MONITORED OZONE EXCEEDANCE

“CODE ORANGE OZONE ADVISORY”

“UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS”

Thursday, September 6, 2012

For Immediate Release as of 4:25 PM:

Thursday, September 6, 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 Frayser monitor in Shelby County, TN. 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. Since Code Orange was **NOT** forecasted today, **MATA bus and trolley fares are NOT discounted to 25-cents today.**

Health Precautions:

- **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

OZONE REDUCTION TIPS RECOMMENDED DURING

“CODE ORANGE OZONE ADVISORIES”

- 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

-MORE-

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.healtharkansas.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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