Studying ozone in the Tri-Cities

The Department of Ecology, Benton Clean Air Agency, and WSU conducted the 2016 Tri-Cities Ozone Precursor Study (TCOPS) to educate the public, and identify and implement ozone reduction measures in the Tri-Cities area.

The EPA sets National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) that must be met. If an area exceeds these standards it is considered to be in non-attainment. The Tri-Cities area is still in attainment, but since ozone levels are high, the area is being closely monitored. TCOPS found that local vehicle emissions are a large contributor to ozone formation in the Tri-Cities.

Visit ecology.wa.gov/AQstudies for more information on this study.



4th highest ozone measurements in parts per billion

For current air quality and ozone levels visit:

https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/enviwa/



UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS

UNHEALTHY FOR EVERYONE

VERY UNHEALTHY FOR EVERYONE

HAZARDOUS FOR EVERYONE

Washington Department of Ecology Air Quality Program www.ecology.wa.gov/ozone



To request ADA accommodation, call Ecology at 360-407-6800, 711 (relay service), or 877-833-6341 (TTY).

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good up high, bad nearby



Who is at risk from ozone pollution?

Ground-level ozone can affect everyone but some groups may be more sensitive such as:

- People who are active outdoors because they breathe heavier.
- Children because their lungs are still developing.
- People with respiratory problems, asthma, or lung disease.
- The elderly, and pregnant women.

Effects of ozone pollution:

- Irritates your throat.
- Can cause coughing, wheezing, and painful breathing.
- Can permanently damage lung tissue.
- Aggravates asthma, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis.
- Increases likelihood of pneumonia and bronchitis.
- Can damage trees and plants.

How to reduce ozone:

- Combine errands.
- Bus, bike, walk, or carpool.
- Avoid "topping off" your gas tank.
- Keep tires properly inflated.
- Don't let your car idle.
- Don't mow when it's hot.
- Store gasoline and other solvents in tightly-closed containers.
- Use manual or electric yard tools.
- Use gas or electric grills.
- Use cleaning products and paints with low VOCs.

What is ozone?

Ozone is a gas that occurs in the upper and lower atmospheres. Ground-level ozone is monitored during warm months.

