

Do Your Part for Cleaner Air

Minor lifestyle changes can result in major air quality improvements.

Drive less – walk, ride a bike, carpool, or take BCT bus or Tri-Rail

Conserve energy at home – use energy efficient light bulbs; turn off lights and appliances when you leave the room

Trip-chain – combine your errands to avoid extra driving, saving time and gas

Tune up your car – proper maintenance can increase gas mileage and reduce pollution

Keep tires properly inflated – it is critical for good fuel economy, safety, maximum tire life, and proper vehicle handling performance

Drive a “greener” vehicle – when it's time to buy a car, look for high gas mileage...or an alternative fuel vehicle

Refuel when it's cool – this will keep the gasoline vapors from getting into the hot air during daylight hours when the sun can cook the vapors and form ozone

Don't “top off” – it releases unnecessary pollution into the air, and harms the pollution control systems in your car

Minimize vehicle idling – it's like getting 0 mpg! It wastes gas, can harm your engine, and causes air pollution

Report Smoking Vehicles by visiting www.broward.org/pollutionprevention, or calling **954-519-1499** – over 50% of the air pollution in Broward County is caused by vehicles on the road



Daily Air Quality Index forecast

To find out more about ozone levels in your area, go to www.airnow.gov. You can also sign up to receive e-mail notifications about the air quality in Broward County by visiting EPA's Enviroflash web site at <https://enviroflash.epa.gov>



A SERVICE OF THE BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

POLLUTION PREVENTION, REMEDIATION AND AIR QUALITY DIVISION

1 N. University Drive, Suite 203
Plantation, FL 33324
954-519-1260

www.broward.org/pollutionprevention

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This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$000.00 or \$0.000 per copy, to inform the public about air quality and ozone.



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Ozone Awareness

What is it and how can I help?



Pollution Prevention, Remediation and Air Quality Division

Contacts and Resources

Pollution Prevention, Remediation and Air Quality Division

1 N. University Drive, Suite 203
Plantation, FL 33324

Air Quality Index 954-519-1280

Environmental Complaint Hotline 954-519-1499

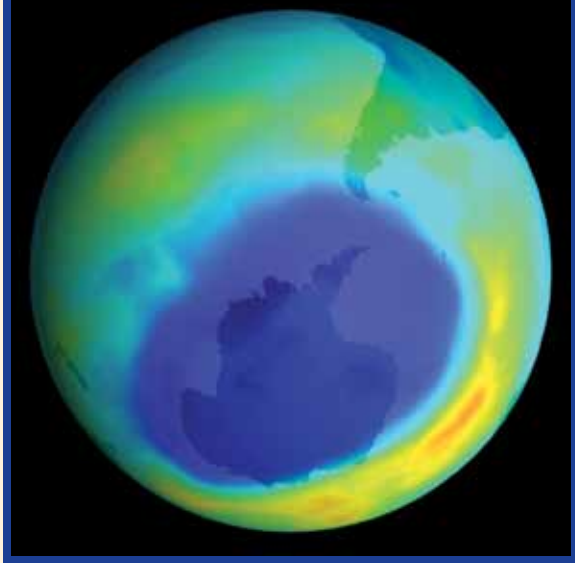
Air Quality Division 954-519-1260

www.broward.org/pollutionprevention

www.dep.state.fl.us

www.epa.gov/oar

www.airnow.gov



What is Ozone?

Ozone (O₃) is an odorless, invisible atmospheric gas.

It is found in two layers of the atmosphere and can be thought of as "good" or "bad" depending on where it is located.



Ozone: Good up high, bad nearby

Ozone occurs naturally in the stratosphere where it forms a protective layer that shields us from harmful ultraviolet rays. This is called "good" ozone. Human activity has depleted this ozone layer in places and caused "holes," but due to a reduction in the use of certain chemicals, it is predicted that the ozone layer could recover.

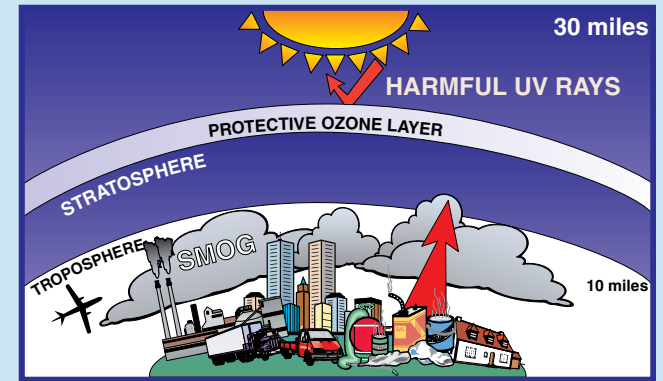
Ground-level ozone is called "bad" ozone and is the main ingredient in smog. It is also the primary pollutant of concern in southeast Florida. When emissions from motor vehicles, lawn maintenance equipment, power plants and gas stations react with the strong Florida sun, they form ozone. Warm temperatures and low wind speeds during the summer months make summer the ozone season!

Ozone in the Southeast Florida Airshed

Similar to the commuting behavior of many south Floridians, ozone does not recognize county boundaries. Instead, it drifts within air masses throughout our region. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established a national health standard for ozone and determined that Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties are considered a region, commonly referred to as the southeast Florida airshed.

Broward County

In 1979, Broward County and the southeast Florida airshed had some problems with high ozone levels, and we were considered a non-attainment area for ozone. This means that we exceeded the levels for ozone that were based on national health standards established by the EPA called the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). In 1990 the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAA) required automobile manufacturers to produce cleaner cars that run on cleaner fuels, and implemented programs to control ozone forming emissions. One such program is the vapor recovery devices at gas pumps. Due to measures such as these and others, and local efforts, the southeast Florida airshed was reclassified in 1995 as attainment for ozone!



Ozone and Your Health

Besides the unsightly effects of ozone (smog), it can also be very bad for your health. When inhaled, it can cause permanent lung damage. Ozone can trigger a variety of health problems including chest pains, coughing, nausea, throat and nose irritation, and congestion. Ozone pollution reduces the capacity of the lungs and can increase the effects of respiratory illness, heart disease and asthma. Young children, older adults, and those with preexisting respiratory conditions and heart disease are most at risk.

Air Quality Index

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is an index for reporting daily air quality. It tells you how clean or polluted your air is, and what associated health effects might be a concern for you. Think of the AQI as a yardstick that runs from 0 to 300; the higher the AQI value, the greater the health concern. When the AQI level reaches above 100, air quality is considered to be unhealthy.

Air Quality Index Environmental Protection Department Air Quality Division

300	Very Unhealthy
200	Unhealthy
150	Unhealthy - Sensitive
100	Moderate
50	Good

For detailed information about the Broward County's AQI, and about ozone health effects, visit:

www.broward.org/air
Air Quality Index: 954-519-1280