



BOSSIER CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Proposal for Ozone Action Days

The City of Bossier City has joined forces with a number of other public and private organizations throughout Northwest Louisiana and the country to make an effort to educate people about what ozone is, and what can be done to prevent it. Through the partnership, The City will inform us when an Ozone Action Day is forecasted.

What is Ozone?

"Good" Ozone: The ozone in the upper atmosphere that is essential to life because it filters ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

"Bad" Ozone: Ozone in the lower atmosphere that is near ground level and is the largest component of air pollution. Ozone causes health problems because it damages lung tissue, reduces lung function, and sensitizes the lungs to other irritants.

Ground-level ozone pollution is formed when emissions from everyday items combine with other pollutants and "cook" in the heat and sunlight. Sources of such emissions include local industry, gasoline-powered vehicles and lawn equipment, and household paints, stains and solvents. Weather plays a key role in ozone formation. The highest ozone levels are usually recorded in summer months (between June and September) when temperatures approach the high 80s and 90s and the wind is stagnant or light.

At ground level, ozone pollution is harmful to all of us, especially the young and elderly. Ozone can also trigger attacks and symptoms in individuals with pre-existing health conditions, such as asthma or other respiratory infections. High levels of ozone pollution often affect healthy people who work or exercise outdoors and can cause breathing difficulties, eye irritation and reduced resistance to lung infections and colds with exposure for prolonged periods.

Participating in the Ozone Action Day has no significant impact on cost or productivity. Individual should utilize this guide to aid in the reduction of "Bad" Ozone.

- Keep vehicles in garages or carports when not in use. Garages or carports help shade vehicles and helps reduce day/night temperature swings that can cause gasoline vapors to escape from your gas tank into the atmosphere.
- Refuel vehicles and lawn equipment in the evening when it is cooler.
- When refueling your car, stop at the click - when the nozzle clicks off. Don't overfill or drip fuel. Avoid spilling gasoline, and check to make sure your gas cap seals properly.
- Avoid idling your car unnecessarily while waiting in parking lots or service lines.

- Reduce your driving by delaying trips, combining errands into one trip and consider carpooling for lunch. This all helps eliminate vehicle emissions and cold starts that increase's vehicle emissions. Most vehicle emissions occur when an automobile's engine is cold.
- Motor vehicles emit fewer pollutants when driven at a consistent speed at or below 65 mph.
- Avoid jack-rabbit acceleration. Fast starts use more gasoline than slow ones.
- Avoid highway construction and drive-through windows.
- Lawn care machines produce a significant amount of pollution.
- Don't mow your lawn or use gas powered equipment during the morning hours when we are under the Ozone Action Day. Postpone using gas powered lawn & garden equipment until evening.
- Try not to use oil-based paints, varnishes, degreasers, or lighter fluids.
- Tightly cap all solvents (gasoline, paint thinners, strippers, and degreasers) Also store these in a cool place to avoid evaporation.
- Choose an alternative to charcoal grilling.
- Don't use petroleum distillate charcoal lighter fluids.

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