



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

*“To protect and improve  
the health and environment  
of the people of Colorado.”*

# NEWS

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## **State Health Department Concludes Ozone Forecasting for 2007**

DENVER – The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will issue the final air quality forecast of the 2007 ozone season Thursday afternoon, department officials confirmed today.

The ozone-forecasting season begins June 1 and traditionally concludes the last day of August. However, predicted meteorological conditions conducive to increased ground-level ozone concentrations prompted the department to extend the forecasting effort into September.

“With the return of more seasonal weather conditions, we believe the time is right to end the summer forecasting effort,” said Paul Tourangeau, director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s Air Pollution Control Division.

Forecasters now will turn their attention to the wintertime air quality forecasting, beginning Nov. 1 and extending through March 31. The first red or blue advisory of the wintertime High Pollution Advisory Program will be issued on Wednesday, Oct. 31 at 4 p.m., taking effect at midnight.

For 2007, 44 Ozone Action Alerts were issued. One or more Denver-metropolitan area and North Front Range monitors recorded ground-level ozone concentrations at or above the federal health-based standard on nine separate days this summer.

One monitor, located in northern Jefferson County, recorded preliminary values this summer that, when considered as part of a rolling three-year average, appear to have put the Front Range region out of compliance with a federal health-based standard for ground-level ozone.

Once the data is validated, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) likely will designate the nine-county region (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, Larimer and Weld counties) as out of compliance with the existing eight-hour ozone standard. The area then will be considered a “nonattainment” area. State officials expect EPA to make its designation announcement by the end of the year.

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The department and its partners already have begun work to develop a plan to further reduce ozone concentrations to attain the standard. The plan will be submitted to the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission for approval by the end of 2008, with legislative and gubernatorial approval expected after that. Once all state approval processes have been complete, the plan ultimately will be submitted to the EPA for approval in 2009.

Department-maintained monitors sample the air year round. Real-time monitoring data is updated hourly on the department's website and available to all. Residents conveniently can access air quality information via the web at either <http://coloradoairquality.info> or <http://ozoneaware.org>. Residents also may call 303-782-0211 for recorded air quality information.