



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 to Continue Ozone Forecasting Through Labor Day Weekend

Denver – The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will continue to forecast ground-level ozone conditions through at least the Labor Day weekend, department officials confirmed.

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 have prompted the department to extend the forecasting season.

“Since our meteorologists began ozone forecasting in 1999, we’ve reserved the option to continue forecasting into September to keep residents informed and to protect public health,” said Paul Tourangeau, director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s Air Pollution Control Division. The department has extended forecasting into September on four other occasions since 1999 because of developing meteorological conditions that influence ozone concentrations.

Tourangeau continued: “Labor Day weekend usually is marked by a lot of family and community events, many of which are out-of-doors. We want to do everything we can to provide people with information that will help them make sound decisions regarding their daily activities.”

Ozone Action Alerts will be issued as needed at least through Monday, September 3. Residents can conveniently access the latest alert and other air quality information via the web at either <http://coloradoairquality.info> or <http://ozoneaware.org>. Residents also may call 303-782-0211 and 303-758-4848 for recorded alert and air quality information.

The Regional Air Quality Council also will continue to inform media directly when alerts are issued.

Thus far in 2007, 44 Ozone Action Alerts have been issued since June 1. This season, one or more Denver-metropolitan area and North Front Range monitors have recorded ground-level ozone concentrations at or above the federal health-based standard on nine separate days. Department-maintained monitors sample the air year round. Real-time monitoring data is updated hourly on the department’s website and available to all.