

Be Air Aware this Ozone Season

Just like the heat, ground-level ozone is at its worst in Central Texas between March and October. Air emissions from vehicle engines, power plants, industrial facilities and many everyday activities contribute to the problem. According to the Capital Area Council of Governments, on-road vehicles make up a large majority of ozone-forming emissions released in our region. Elevated ozone levels can have a significant impact on human health. When ozone levels are high, many individuals may experience increased respiratory ailments. Especially susceptible are children, seniors, and those with lung diseases like asthma.

National <u>Air Quality Awareness Week</u> is May 1-5, 2017. Making a commitment to act is the first step in being "Air Aware" and helping to keep the region's air breathable. Visit <u>aircentraltexas.org</u> to learn about actions that you can take to help keep the region's air clean, such as driving less, driving cleaner, conserving and committing to act.

Other useful air quality awareness resources:

- Learn about the Air Quality Index and download the AirNow smartphone app at airnow.gov.
- Sign up to receive the daily forecast for conditions in Texas metropolitan areas at tceq.texas.gov and search for the Texas Air Quality Forecast.
- Visit the CLEAN AIR Force of Central Texas website, <u>cleanairforce.org</u>, and sign up to receive Ozone Action Day Alerts.
- Learn more about taking a sustainable commute from Commute Solutions at <u>commutesolutions.com</u>.