

Air Quality Index

The Air Quality Index (AQI) identifies air quality as it relates to health effects you may experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air. Ground-level ozone and airborne particles (PM2.5 and PM10) pose the greatest threat to human health. For more information visit: <http://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=static.aqi>

Particle pollution, also known as "particulate matter", is a mixture of microscopic solids and liquid droplets suspended in air. The size of particles is directly linked to their potential for causing health problems. Fine particles (known as PM2.5) pose the greatest problems because they can get deep into your lungs and some may even get into your bloodstream. Particles less than 10 micrometers (PM10), include both fine and coarse dust particles that can pass through the nose and throat and get into your lungs. For more information visit: http://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=jump.jump_particle

Ozone near ground level forms when pollutants emitted by cars, power plants, industrial boilers, refineries, chemical plants, and other sources react chemically in the presence of sunlight. Ground-level ozone is a harmful air pollutant. For more information visit: http://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=jump.jump_ozone

AQI Value	Ozone Values	Air Quality	Description
0-50 (green)	0 – 59 ppb	Good	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
51-100 (yellow)	60 – 75 ppb	Moderate	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people.
101 – 150 (orange)	76 – 95 ppb	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected at this AQI range.
151 – 200 (red)	96 – 115 ppb	Unhealthy	Everyone may begin to experience some adverse health effects, and members of the sensitive groups may experience more serious effects.
201 – 300 (purple)	116 – 374 ppb	Very Unhealthy	Pollution levels trigger a health alert signifying that everyone may experience more serious health effects.
301 – 500 (maroon)	375+ ppb	Hazardous	Pollution levels trigger health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.

