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Utah Department of Environmental Quality Division of Air Quality

Fact Sheet







New Air Quality Alert System

The Division of Air Quality (DAQ) has developed, with public input, a new air quality alert system to better communicate the complex health implications and activity restrictions based on real-time pollution monitoring data.

The new alert system consists of:

Part 1: A symbol code for action alerts

Part 2: A color code for health guidance

Box Elder	Cache	Duchesne	SLC / Davis	Tooele	Uintah	Utah	Washington	Weber
Tuesday Health  Good Unrestricted Action 			Wednesday Health  Moderate Voluntary Action 			Thursday Health  Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups Mandatory Action 		

Part 1: Action Alerts

The DAQ's new alert system uses three basic symbols to indicate unrestricted, voluntary and mandatory actions. Changing levels of pollution trigger restrictions on various types of activities (e.g., wood burning) and opportunities to voluntarily adjust other types of activities (e.g., carpooling vs. sole-passenger driving). See Page 2 for detailed legend.

Visit www.airquality.utah.gov to access the new air quality alert system. Utah residents can view current conditions and a three-day forecast for the county they live in to help them plan ahead.

Part 2: Health Guidance

The alert system implements the Environmental Protection Agency's national standard Air Quality Index (AQI) for reporting daily air quality levels. The AQI is divided into six, color-coded categories that correspond to different levels of pollution. The AQI is intended to help a person understand the potential health effects they may experience when breathing polluted air. See Page 2 for detailed legend.

Nine Suggestions To Improve Air Quality

- 1 Combine Trips While Your Car is Warm
- 2 Don't Idle
- 3 Keep Your Vehicle Well-Tuned
- 4 Carpool
- 5 Use Mass Transit
- 6 Telecommute
- 7 Work a Flex Schedule
- 8 Conserve Energy
- 9 Avoid Consumer Spray Products

For more ideas visit:

www.cleanair.utah.gov

Action Legend



Unrestricted Action

Wood and coal burning stoves or fireplaces may be used, but please use them in a proper manner to reduce smoke emissions.



Voluntary Action

Voluntarily do not use wood and coal burning stoves or fireplaces. Reduce vehicle use by consolidating trips. Industry should optimize operating conditions to minimize air pollution emissions.



Mandatory Action

Wood and coal burning stoves or fireplaces must not be used. Reduce vehicle use by consolidating trips. Industry should optimize operating conditions to minimize air pollution emissions.

Health Legend

Good

Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk

Moderate

Highly-sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.

Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups

The following groups should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion:

- People with lung disease, such as asthma
- Children and older adults
- People who are active outdoors

Unhealthy

The following groups should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion:

- People with lung disease, such as asthma
- Children and older adults
- People who are active outdoors

Everyone else should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.

Very Unhealthy

The following groups should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion:

- People with lung disease, such as asthma
- Children and older adults
- People who are active outdoors

Everyone else should limit outdoor exertion.

Hazardous

This would trigger health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population will most likely be affected.