

Ground-level ozone is the most common air quality problem in Harris County. Ozone pollution is mainly a daytime problem when temperatures are high, sunshine is strong, and winds are weak. When this occurs, ozone can accumulate to unhealthy levels, especially for people with respiratory or heart conditions who are participating in strenuous outdoor activities.

Cypress Fairbanks ISD has developed a plan to respond to high concentrations of ground-level ozone. The district's plan follows the recommendations from Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

http://www.tceq.texas.gov/cgi-bin/compliance/monops/select_curlev.pl?region12_cur.gif#map1

When the school district receives an ozone alert from Harris County, district personnel carefully monitor the ozone levels in **northwest** Harris County. When the ground-level ozone reaches unhealthy levels in our geographic area, campuses are notified of the specific ozone warning level of orange, red, or purple. Based on the ozone warning level, certain strenuous outdoor activities, such as physical education or recess, will be curtailed for some or all students.

Following an Ozone Alert, campuses will implement the following guidelines;

ORANGE ALERT
101 – 150
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups

The following should **LIMIT** prolonged outdoor exertion:

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

Outdoor activity should be curtailed to one hour or less.

Each Campus nurse has developed a list of students in this group based on health card information.

RED ALERT
151 – 200
Unhealthy

The following should **AVOID** prolonged outdoor exertion:

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

**ALL OUTDOOR ACTIVITY SHOULD BE MOVED TO AN INDOOR VENUE
SCHEDULED OUTDOOR ATHLETIC ACTIVITY WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL CONDITIONS IMPROVE**

PURPLE ALERT
201 – 300
VERY UNHEALTHY

ALL STUDENTS WILL AVOID ALL OUTDOOR ACTIVITY REGARDLESS OF DURATION

SCHEDULED OUTDOOR ATHLETIC ACTIVITY WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL CONDITIONS IMPROVE

How does Ozone affect health?

Makes it more difficult to breathe deeply and vigorously
Causes shortness of breath and pain when taking deep breaths
Causes coughing and sore or scratchy throat
Inflames and damage the lung linings
Makes lungs more susceptible to infection