



Summer Ozone Advisories FAQ



What is an ozone advisory?

An ozone advisory is simply a forecast of expected ozone levels in the seven-county, metropolitan-Denver region. The RAQC issues one type of ozone advisory during the ozone season (June 1 – August 31):

- A Summer Ozone Pollution **ACTION ALERT** means that CDPHE meteorologists expect weather conditions to lead to increased ground-level ozone concentrations over the next 24 hours. An alert will remain in effect for 24 hours and will either be called off or re-issued at that time.

Who issues ozone advisories?

The Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) – the lead air quality planning agency for the seven-county, metropolitan-Denver region – works closely with meteorologists from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to issue summer ozone advisories. CDPHE meteorologists determine the alert and RAQC issues them to media, individuals, local governments, and businesses.

How does the RAQC determine when to issue an Ozone Action Alert?

Meteorologists at the CDPHE analyze weather forecasts and ozone monitoring data from around the seven-county region to predict expected ozone levels. In general hot, sunny, and windless conditions increase the likelihood of high ozone concentrations, while clouds, wind, and more moderate temperatures can help prevent ozone formation.

When do the CDPHE and the RAQC issue ozone advisories?

CDPHE meteorologists predict expected ozone levels each afternoon. The RAQC issues ozone advisories at 4:00 p.m. when there is an alert. Ozone **ACTION ALERTS** are re-issued daily until they are called off.

To whom does the RAQC issue ozone advisories?

The RAQC issues advisories to the media (usually to the city, weather and/or news desk), interested individuals, businesses, and local governments.

What should I do with an ozone advisory?

Members of the media are asked to print or broadcast daily ozone advisories so citizens can avoid exposure and modify ozone-producing activities (see www.raqc.org for tips). Local governments should notify employees and the public about advisories via e-mail and websites. Businesses, local governments and individuals can modify activities to reduce ozone pollution.

I have more questions. Who should I ask?

Contact Sara O'Keefe at the Regional Air Quality Council at sokeefe@raqc.org or 303-629-5450, ext. 220.