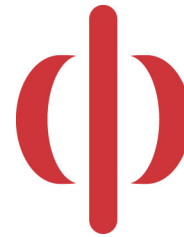


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**RESPIRATORY  
HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION<sup>SM</sup>**  
*of Metropolitan Chicago*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 16, 2008

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## **Unhealthy Air Pollution Levels Predicted**

*Environmental health expert available for comment*

**WHAT:** Air pollution is expected to exceed federal health standards TODAY. Because the standard for ozone smog, was tightened in March 2008, the Chicago area can expect more than **DOUBLE** the number of unhealthy air quality days it has seen historically.

**WHY:** Hot, sunny calm weather leads to the formation of ozone (smog) pollution in the greater Chicago area and concentrations are expected to reach unhealthy levels, putting many people at risk.

Ozone reacts chemically with internal body tissues in the lungs. Smog can cause both short and long-term health effects even in healthy adults including shortness of breath, painful breathing and wheezing and coughing. Over time repeated exposure to ozone may lead to reductions in lung function, inflammation of the lung lining, and difficulty breathing.

**WHO:** Brian Urbaszewski—Director Environmental Health Programs, Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago

**WHEN:** **TODAY Wednesday, July 16, 2008**

**WHERE:** Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago,  
1440 West Washington Blvd., Chicago

### **VISUALS / INTERVIEWS:**

Brian Urbaszewski is available for comment on air quality issues relating to lung health.

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Leader Since 1906

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