



## What you need to know about...

### Finding Daily Air Quality information

Air pollution can reach unhealthy levels in our region.

Ground-level ozone smog is not emitted directly but is formed by solar energy 'cooking' pollution from vehicles, industry and other sources. High ozone levels occur when temperatures exceed 85 degrees and skies are clear, sunny and calm. Daily ozone levels typically peak in the evening and are usually lowest around sunrise.

Fine particle, or soot, pollution can reach high levels under the same weather conditions. It can also occur at any time of the year when dry, calm and clear conditions can concentrate particle pollution.

#### AIR QUALITY INDEX

The U.S. EPA created the Air Quality Index as an easy to understand color-coded system for providing air quality information to

the public. AQI information is provided to area news media and several other outlets.

#### PHONE HOTLINES

City of Chicago 312-744-4365 (City only)  
 Cook County 708-865-6320 (metro area)

#### INTERNET

SMOG ALERT! email service

[www.lungchicago.org](http://www.lungchicago.org)

Provides email alerts whenever air pollution is expected to approach or reach elevated levels. We operate this system to ensure those who are especially sensitive to air pollution have useful and timely information.

U.S. EPA's AIRNOW webpage

[www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov)

Provides daily air quality information and next day predictions of air quality.

Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Numerical Value	Meaning
Good	0-50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate	51-100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	151-200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.

Partners for Clean Air  
[www.cleanteair.org](http://www.cleanteair.org)  
 Air Pollution Action Days are announced during multi-day air pollution events when air quality is expected to reach unhealthy levels.