



# NEWS RELEASE

**Illinois Environmental Protection Agency**  
1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276  
Phone: 217/782-3397



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact: Kim Biggs**  
**217-558-1536**  
**Kim.Biggs@illinois.gov**

## **Chicago Area Air Pollution Action Day Issued for June 17th** ***Conditions in Metropolitan Area May Extend through the Week***

CHICAGO, IL – The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has issued an Air Pollution Action Day for the Chicago Metropolitan area for Monday, June 17 due to elevated ground-level ozone. The Action Day includes the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Grundy, Lake, McHenry and Will. Regional air quality is expected to reach the “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” category on the national Air Quality Index (AQI) today and expected to extend into tomorrow due to hot and dry weather conditions, which are conducive to ozone formation. This is the first Action Day issued by Illinois EPA for 2024.

In Illinois, a Chicago Air Pollution Action Day is issued when air quality is forecasted to be at or above the Orange or “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” category for two or more consecutive days for Chicago Metropolitan area. Ground-level ozone is forecasted to be at the orange level on June 16<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup>, posing a potential health hazard to sensitive populations. Individuals most at risk due to elevated air pollution, including ground-level ozone and particle pollution, are those with respiratory or pulmonary disorders, as well as children and adults who are active outdoors. Sensitive individuals should follow their doctor’s advice. Some symptoms to look out for include wheezing, coughing, a fast heartbeat, fatigue, chest pain, and shortness of breath. If symptoms worsen, you should call your physician or 911.

Ground level ozone forms as a result of chemical reactions between nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds. Emissions from vehicles, power plants, and industrial sources chemically react with sunlight. The U.S. EPA has developed an Air Quality Guide for Ozone with additional details at: <https://document.airnow.gov/air-quality-guide-for-ozone.pdf>.

The Illinois EPA issues daily air quality forecasts, based on the AQI, for 14 sectors throughout Illinois. The AQI is a color-coded system that classifies air quality from Good to Hazardous. All air quality forecasts are available at [www.AirNow.gov](http://www.AirNow.gov). In addition to the [AirNow.gov](http://www.AirNow.gov) website, residents can subscribe to FREE air quality forecasts and alerts through the [EnviroFlash](#) program and download the Free **AIRNow App** for iPhone and Android phones: [iPhone App](#) | [Android App](#).

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APAD 06-17-24/2

Businesses and residents in the region are encouraged to take the listed steps below to reduce contributions to air pollution every day, but especially on Action Days. Actions include:

- Limit Driving – combine errands, walk, or bike if possible.
- If driving, avoid idling, consolidate errands, and keep your vehicle and other engines properly tuned.
- Conserve energy to reduce energy demands.
- Use environmentally friendly household and cleaning products.
- Avoid using gasoline-powered equipment like lawnmowers and leaf blowers.
- Notify colleagues, friends, and family to help protect their health and encourage actions.

Additional information on air quality and Air Pollution Action Days in Illinois is available at:

<https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/air-quality/outdoor-air.html>.

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