



KNOZONE

Office of Sustainability

KNOZONE PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

★ WHAT IS KNOZONE?

The KNOZONE program is part of Mayor Greg Ballard's initiative to make Indianapolis one of the Midwest's most sustainable, livable cities. Through educational programming and a call to action, the KNOZONE program works to motivate residents and businesses to change their behavior to reduce air pollution.

★ WHAT IS A KNOZONE AIR QUALITY ACTION DAY?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set air quality standards to protect our health and the environment. We announce KNOZONE Air Quality Action Days when we expect pollutants to exceed the federal standards for ozone and fine particulate matter. A Knozone Action Day means the weather is favorable for an increase in air pollution, which can be unhealthy for children, senior citizens, those with cardiovascular or breathing-related illness and those who spend time outdoors.

★ WHY SHOULD AIR QUALITY BE IMPORTANT TO EVERYONE?

Everyone breathes air every day. Poor air quality is bad for our health and the environment. People with heart or lung disease and asthmatics, as well as the young and elderly, are the most vulnerable. If everyone does his or her part, collectively it can make a big difference.

★ WHAT FACTORS ARE CONSIDERED FOR KNOZONE AIR QUALITY ACTION DAYS FOR OZONE?

- Temperatures in the 80s or higher, depending on the time of year
- Light winds, around 6 mph or less
- Clear or partly cloudy days
- Angle of sun (typically in late May, June and July months when the sun's angle is optimal for ozone formation)

★ WHAT FACTORS ARE CONSIDERED FOR KNOZONE AIR QUALITY ACTION DAYS FOR FINE PARTICLES?

- Light winds, around 6 mph or less
- Little vertical mixing of the atmosphere
- Position and movement of frontal systems
- Current particulate matter concentrations

★ WHAT EFFECT DOES THE TEMPERATURE HAVE ON A KNOZONE AIR QUALITY DAY?

Temperature and sun intensity play an important part in the formation of ground-level ozone. Emissions such as nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds from sources such as vehicles and industry react in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight to produce ground-level ozone.

Continued on next page.



Indianapolis *Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor*

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WHAT IS THE BIGGEST MISCONCEPTION ASSOCIATED WITH KNOZONE?

KNOZONE sometimes only comes to mind in the summer. We can also call a KNOZONE Air Quality Action Day for fine particulate at any time of the year.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GROUND-LEVEL OZONE AND OZONE?

Ground-level ozone is specific to the ozone that is in the earth's lower atmosphere. It is the harmful form of ozone. "Good" ozone occurs naturally in the stratosphere, approximately 10 to 30 miles above the earth's surface, and forms a layer that protects life on earth from the sun's harmful rays.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Increase your awareness – Sign up for KNOZONE Action Day email alerts at www.indy.gov/KNOZONE.

Get involved in a carpool or vanpool or use public transportation – Central Indiana Commuter Services provides mobility solutions and commute options free of charge, accessible at www.327RIDE.net. You can also visit www.IndyGo.net for local public transportation options.

Service your car regularly – Visible emissions are a sign of poor performance, and one poorly performing car can equal emissions from 10-25 properly running vehicles.

Don't idle unnecessarily – By not idling in a drive-thru, you are eliminating emissions that help the formation of ground-level ozone and fine particles. Plus, less gas is used, so you save money over the long-term.

For more information on the KNOZONE program and ways you can get involved, visit www.indy.gov/knozone.