



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MEDIA CONTACT: Sara Lips  
Director of Communications  
Georgia Environmental Protection Division  
470-524-0732  
[sara.lips@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:sara.lips@dnr.ga.gov)

**Who is Most At Risk During Georgia's Ozone Season?**

**ATLANTA (May 23, 2023)** –While Georgia has been successful in improving air quality over the past decades, the potential harm of air pollution is still of significant concern for people living with certain health conditions.

"It is important that all Georgians be aware of the indications of poor air quality, but it is especially so for those most at risk from its negative effects," said Michael Odom, Mobile & Area Sources Manager, Georgia's Environmental Protection Division (EPD). "Those most likely to be impacted by poor air quality should plan their activities with the air quality forecast in mind, especially during peak ozone season."

Georgia Environmental Protection Division's Air Protection Branch has designated March 1 through October 1 as ozone season in the state. Ambient Monitoring, a program within EPD's Air Protection Branch, provides ozone forecasting from April 1 through October 1.

Who is most at risk from air pollution exposure?

- People with heart disease, such as atherosclerosis
- People with lung disease, such as lung cancer, COPD, and asthma
- People with diabetes
- Older adults
- Children less than 18 years of age

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that people in these groups reduce exposure to air pollution by:

- Spending less active time outdoors;

- Reducing the intensity of outdoor activity; and
- Planning outdoor activity during hours of better air quality.



[Watch online YouTube video.](#)

To determine air quality, Georgians can visit [www.airgeorgia.org](http://www.airgeorgia.org) for current and forecasted conditions. Another resource is [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov), a service of the EPA.

To download an infographic, visit the Georgia's Clean Air Force website at <https://cleanairforce.com/common/press>.

### **About Georgia's Clean Air Force**

Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF), in partnership with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), is responsible for the management of the Enhanced Vehicle Emission Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program throughout Atlanta's 13 metro counties. Since 1996, Georgia's Inspection and Maintenance Program has prevented more than 2.1 million tons of harmful ozone-forming pollutants from entering the air we breathe. The program has also identified and repaired more than 4.3 million heavy-polluting vehicles. For more information, please visit <https://www.cleanairforce.com/>.

Sources: <https://www.epa.gov/pmcourse/patient-exposure-and-air-quality-index#advise>,  
<https://airgeorgia.org/>,  
[https://aqs.epa.gov/aqsweb/documents/codetables/ozone\\_seasons.html](https://aqs.epa.gov/aqsweb/documents/codetables/ozone_seasons.html),  
<https://www.airnow.gov>

###