

Ground-level ozone is the most common air quality problem in Harris County. Ozone pollution is mainly a daytime problem when temperatures are high, sunshine is strong, and winds are weak. When this occurs, ozone can accumulate to unhealthy levels, especially for people with respiratory or heart conditions who are participating in strenuous outdoor activities.

Cypress Fairbanks ISD has developed a plan to respond to high concentrations of ground-level ozone. The district's plan follows the recommendations from Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

[http://www.tceq.texas.gov/cgi-bin/compliance/monops/select\\_curlev.pl?region12\\_cur.gif#map1](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/cgi-bin/compliance/monops/select_curlev.pl?region12_cur.gif#map1)

When the school district receives an ozone alert from Harris County, district personnel carefully monitor the ozone levels in **northwest** Harris County. When the ground-level ozone reaches unhealthy levels in our geographic area, campuses are notified of the specific ozone warning level of orange, red, or purple. Based on the ozone warning level, certain strenuous outdoor activities, such as physical education or recess, will be curtailed for some or all students.

### **Following an Ozone Alert, campuses will implement the following guidelines;**

**ORANGE ALERT**  
**101 – 150**  
**Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups**

The following should **LIMIT** prolonged outdoor exertion:

- People with lung disease, such as asthma, heart disease, or respiratory conditions
- Children and older adults
- People who are active outdoors

**Outdoor activity should be curtailed to one hour or less.**

**Each Campus nurse has developed a list of students in this group based on health card information.**

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**RED ALERT**  
**151 – 200**  
**Unhealthy**

The following should **AVOID** prolonged outdoor exertion:

- People with lung disease, such as asthma, heart disease, or respiratory conditions
- Children and older adults
- People who are active outdoors

**ALL OUTDOOR ACTIVITY SHOULD BE MOVED TO AN INDOOR VENUE**  
**SCHEDULED OUTDOOR ATHLETIC ACTIVITY WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL CONDITIONS IMPROVE**

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**PURPLE ALERT**  
**201 – 300**  
**VERY UNHEALTHY**

**ALL STUDENTS WILL AVOID ALL OUTDOOR ACTIVITY REGARDLESS OF DURATION**

**SCHEDULED OUTDOOR ATHLETIC ACTIVITY WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL CONDITIONS IMPROVE**

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#### **How does Ozone affect health?**

Makes it more difficult to breathe deeply and vigorously  
Causes shortness of breath and pain when taking deep breaths  
Causes coughing and sore or scratchy throat  
Inflames and damage the lung linings  
Makes lungs more susceptible to infection