



Shasta County

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
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NEWS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For our local communities, the upcoming hot, dry, and stagnant weather often means an increase in air pollution. Our primary air pollution concerns are with ozone and particulate matter. Ozone is the main ingredient in smog. At ground level, ozone is a harmful air pollutant. Ozone can irritate your respiratory system and throat or cause a burning sensation in your airways. Ground level ozone forms when pollutants emitted by cars, power plants, chemical plants and other sources react chemically in the presence of sunlight. Particulate matter, especially fine particles, contain microscopic solid or liquid droplets that are so small that they can get deep into the lungs and cause serious health problems. Fine particulate matter is formed by industrial operations, agricultural operations, unpaved roads, diesel engines, and vegetation and wood burning (ie: wildfires; controlled burns; woodstoves; fireplaces). When weather conditions are hot, dry, and stagnant, air pollution should become a greater concern to the health and well-being of the local community.

Using improved technology and to stay better informed about our local air pollution, the Shasta County Air Quality Management District and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is recommending the general public sign up for EnviroFlash. EnviroFlash is an e-mail alert system that delivers air quality information straight to your inbox or cell phone. To sign up, you go to the website and become a subscriber by filling in basic information, like e-mail address and ZIP code. As a subscriber, you will receive daily and local Air Quality Index (AQI) forecasts regarding ozone and particulate pollution.

EnviroFlash alerts can help people stay better informed of the risks associated with unhealthy air pollution levels. Groups most susceptible to the risks include children, older adults, people with respiratory or heart diseases and people who are active outdoors. However, when AQI numbers are very high, it is a concern for everyone.

Sign up for EnviroFlash at www.enviroflash.info and you can receive air pollution alerts straight to your inbox or cell phone. For further information, please contact Donal Jonio at 225-5236.

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PLANNING DIVISION
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