



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ EnviroFlash notification system helps citizens monitor air quality

BATON ROUGE – May is Air Quality Awareness Month and the start of ozone season. This is the time of year when knowing about air quality is most important because of the increased possibility of ozone formation on hot, dry summer days. An easy way to keep informed about air quality is through the EnviroFlash notification system. EnviroFlash is a free e-mail alert system that delivers air quality information straight to an inbox or phone. To subscribe, citizens can fill in basic information such as the frequency with which they would like to receive notifications, e-mail address and ZIP code. The subscriber will then receive alerts either daily or when ozone or particle pollution is expected to be unhealthy. Another benefit to subscribing to EnviroFlash is that DEQ will send out manual emails to subscribers when there is an event such as a fire that affects the air quality.

To stay better informed about ozone and other air quality matters, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality encourages the general public sign up for the EnviroFlash system. These are the Web addresses to sign up statewide:

<http://Batonrougearea.enviroflash.info>

<http://neworleansarea.enviroflash.info>

<http://shreveportarea.enviroflash.info>

<http://alexandriarea.enviroflash.info>

<http://lakecharlesarea.enviroflash.info>

<http://monroearia.enviroflash.info>

<http://thibodauxarea.enviroflash.info>

<http://lafayettearea.enviroflash.info>

“Hot weather increases the risk of elevated ozone levels,” said Peggy Hatch, DEQ Secretary. “Because higher ozone can have an impact on the public, we urge people to take advantage of the free EnviroFlash system. It’s a simple, free way to stay informed and take appropriate steps to protect your health.”

Ground level ozone forms when pollutants emitted by cars, industrial sources and other sources react chemically in the presence of sunlight. During hot, sunny months, ozone becomes a greater concern. Hot, dry weather often means a higher chance of air pollution. EnviroFlash alerts can help people stay informed about air quality so they can make good decisions on outdoor activity.

For more information on current air quality, go to the DEQ Web site, www.deq.louisiana.gov/aqinfo and the interactive EPA Web site www.airnow.gov.