



For Immediate Release:
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Gov. Edwards proclaims May is Air Quality Awareness Month

BATON ROUGE -- Governor John Bel Edwards proclaimed May to be Air Quality Awareness Month in Louisiana. Air quality is the best it has been since the Clean Air Act was promulgated. The entire state is in attainment for ozone and fine particulate matter (PM 2.5). The key to maintaining and continuing to improve our air quality is awareness and cooperation. Governments, industry, business owners and citizens all play a part in protecting the air quality and environment in Louisiana.

May is the beginning of ozone season as clear, windless days become more common.. The days we enjoy so much in the spring are not necessarily good for ozone levels as volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NOX) can combine to form ozone on sunny, still days. If ozone levels begin to rise, LDEQ calls for Air Quality advisory days. Air Quality advisories are based on a forecast, and like the weather forecast, the prediction for high ozone does not always result in a high ozone day. The purpose of the forecast is to help sensitive populations make informed decisions about outdoor activity and to take preventative actions to prevent ozone formation.

The ozone and the PM 2.5 forecast are determined by a set of variables: the presence of precursor pollutants, plus the amount of sunlight and wind. Ozone forms in the highest concentrations, mainly on sunny days with light wind speeds. Louisiana's background levels of ozone are raised close to the standard from natural precursors, biogenic chemical compounds emitted from trees, plants, lightning and other natural occurrences. This, coupled with man-made pollutants in the presence of sunlight and stagnant winds, can result in air quality advisories.

It is important to be aware of the air quality, and you can do this this by signing up for EnviroFlash. This free, automated air quality notification system will send you an advisory, by email or text, when an Air Quality Advisory is forecast. You can also sign up to receive information daily by simply registering for EnviroFlash at <http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroflash>. If you need real-time data from monitoring sites, the forecast and to receive notifications, you can access air quality monitoring information at <http://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov/>. Being air aware allows you to make the best choices for your health and the environment.

Office of the Governor



JOHN BEL EDWARDS

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** clean air is important to the health and well-being of Louisiana residents; and
- WHEREAS,** the state of Louisiana is currently in attainment for the ozone and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) standards; and
- WHEREAS,** Louisiana prioritizes air quality and has shown steady reductions in levels of air pollution in outdoor air over the past four decades; and
- WHEREAS,** when individuals, businesses, industry, local government and the federal government work together, we can achieve still cleaner air; and
- WHEREAS,** daily awareness of air quality through utilization of the Air Quality Index and using the EnviroFlash air quality notification system is simple and can help protect the citizens and our communities health; and
- WHEREAS,** the state of Louisiana through the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality encourages citizens to be air aware and to take personal measures to improve air quality; and
- WHEREAS,** the federal government has declared the week of May 1 through May 5, 2023 as National Air Quality Awareness Week.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, **John Bel Edwards**, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim May 2023 as

AIR QUALITY AWARENESS MONTH
in the State of Louisiana.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 1st day of May A. D., 2023.

John Bel Edwards
Governor