



# Air Quality Flag Program

**GOOD/HEALTHY**

Air Quality Index: 0-50ppb

No outdoor activity limitations  
Air is Healthy for everyone

**MODERATE**

Air Quality Index: 51-100ppb

Extremely sensitive groups should be careful when outdoors (severe asthma and other medical conditions)

**UNHEALTHY**

(Sensitive Groups)

Air Quality Index: 101-150ppb

Sensitive groups should limit outdoor activities (children, elderly and those with breathing ailments)

**UNHEALTHY**

(For Everyone)

Air Quality Index: 151-200ppb

Extremely sensitive groups should be careful when outdoors



## MS Gulf Coast Clean Air Corps: Flag Program

The Clean Air Corps (CAC) Flag Program increases awareness of outdoor air quality. It is an education and awareness tool that alerts individuals to current air quality conditions and encourages activity modification to reduce emissions, especially on ozone action days.

Our mission is to protect local air quality so that our three county, coastal region remains in compliance with EPA's ozone standard of 75ppb.

The flag program provides a visual alert to employees, students and others in the community. Based on the flag's color, individuals will adjust their behavior to reduce emissions from energy consumption, as well as from the use of gas or diesel vehicles and equipment.

### What types of activity modifications are suggested?

- Energy Conservation: Turn off and unplug unnecessary equipment
- No Idling Policy: Save money and reduce exhaust emissions from vehicle idling
- Carpool, bicycle and use public transit
- Avoid driving at peak hours/on hot days
- Refuel in the evenings and after dark so fumes don't react with sunlight
- Eliminate small engine exhaust by rescheduling lawn mowing, pressure washing, weeding and using gas carts

- Reschedule painting and other tasks that expel fumes into the air for another day
- String stops together and avoid idling for fast food, prescriptions and in parent pick-up lines.
- Allow telecommute for some staff and flex arrival times for others to reduce traffic congestion during rush hours

### What's an ozone action day?

Ozone Action Days are any day forecasted to not be green/healthy for everyone. On these days, (avg. of 30 days per year) citizens, employees, students and others are encouraged to avoid activities that result in ozone creation.

### How is ozone created?

Ozone is created through a chemical process that occurs when volatile organic compounds (VOC) mix with nitrogen oxides (NOx) in the presence of sunlight.

**VOC + NOx + Sunlight = Ozone**

### How do we know which flag to fly?

Personnel responsible for raising the flags should subscribe to receive a daily forecast email at [enviroflash.info](mailto:enviroflash.info). MDEQ emails the 3 day forecast around 3:00pm every day of the ozone season, April to November.

### Three steps to start program:

1. Identify the program team. Each signs up to receive the daily air quality forecast.
2. Get your set of flags and select a prominent position to fly them
3. Educate your students/staff of the effort to keep our air clean and how they will be asked to participate/can participate, especially on ozone action days.

Once everyone understands the flag program and the activity modifications expected of them, the flags will act as a visual alert of air quality conditions. It will help initiate your plan.

### Clean Air Corps Membership

Schools, agencies and organizations that maintain an active flag program are automatically registered as members of the MS Gulf Coast Clean Air Corps and will be recognized on the program website [www.coastcleanair.org](http://www.coastcleanair.org).



Our Program Mascot: Captain Clean Air

### Register Today!

To start a flag program at your school or business and to get more information on other air quality programs please contact the CAC Coordinator, Stephanie Planchich at 228-864-1167 or via email at [contactus@grpc.com](mailto:contactus@grpc.com).

\*Flags are provided to participating organizations by the Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

