

AIR QUALITY INDEX

The Air Quality Index, or AQI, is a scale used to report actual levels of ozone and other common pollutants in the air. The higher the AQI value, the greater the health concern. As shown in the table below, the AQI scale has been divided into categories that correspond to different levels of health concern.

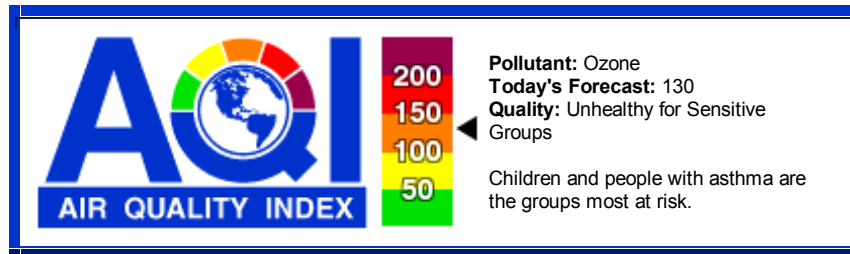
AIR QUALITY INDEX		
Index Values	Descriptors	Cautionary Statements for Ozone
0 to 50	Good	None.
51 to 100	Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should consider limiting prolonged outdoor exertion.
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should avoid prolonged outdoor exertion; everyone else, especially children, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should avoid all outdoor exertion; everyone else, especially children, should limit outdoor exertion.

A specific color has been assigned to each AQI category. For example, red means “unhealthy” conditions and purple means “very unhealthy” conditions. This color scheme can help you quickly determine if air pollutants are reaching unhealthy levels in your area.

You may see the AQI for ozone reported in your news paper or on your local television or radio station. Here’s the type of report you might hear:

The Air Quality Index today was 160. Air quality was unhealthy due to ozone. Hot, sunny weather and stagnant air caused ozone in Center City to rise to unhealthy levels.

The illustration below shows how you might see the AQI used in a newspaper. In this example, an AQI value of 130 is reported, which means that ozone levels are unhealthy for sensitive groups.



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