Taking Action on Air Quality

At the end of March, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Air Quality will stop issuing daily PM2.5 pollution action forecasts for the 2017-18 winter season.

PM2.5

PM2.5 refers to atmospheric particulate matter (PM) with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometers, which is about 3% the diameter of a human hair.

Human Hair: 100 microns

Particulate PM10: 10 microns

Red Blood Cell: 6-8 microns

Smallest Pollen: 6 microns

Most Bacteria: 2-8 microns

Particulate PM2.5: 2.5 microns

WHO IS AT RISK?

PM2.5 is small enough to bypass lungs and enter the blood stream. Once inside. PM 2.5 remain in our bodies for a long time and can cause cardiovascular and lung damage for at-risk populations.

Children and teens

Anyone 65 and older

People who work or exercise outdoors

People with lung or heart conditions

FORECASTS

The Division of Air Quality issues two types of forecasts along the Wasatch Front during the winter:

Health forecasts help determine how the highest pollution level of the day will affect people's health.

AQI	PM 2.5 µg/m3
Good	0 - 12.0 µg/m3
Moderate	12.1 - 35.4 µg/m3
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	35.5 - 55.4 µg/m3
Unhealthy	55.5 - 150.4 µg/m3
Very Unhealthy	150.5 - 250.4 µg/m3
Hazardous	Above 250.5 µg/m3

Action forecasts notify the public of the actions needed to combat the current pollution levels.

Voluntary Action: Residents are asked to voluntarily not burn solid fuel and "TravelWise" by reducing trips and using public transit.

Mandatory Action: Solid fuel burning devices must not be used. Open burning may not occur; consolidating trips and taking public transit is encouraged.

AIR QUALITY

Air.Utah.Gov