DEQ IS FORECASTING AN OZONE ALERT FOR TODAY, AUGUST 14, 2007 in the Greater Baton Rouge area. The Carville and Bayou Plaquemine air monitors are showing elevated levels of ozone and the weather conditions are favorable for further formation of ozone.

Increasing ozone levels may cause unhealthy air quality for the general population during afternoon hours. Active children and adults, the elderly and people with respiratory diseases, such as asthma, should avoid prolonged outdoor activities. Everyone else, especially children, should avoid prolonged outdoor exertion.

Area residents are encouraged to take one or more of the following voluntary actions:

1. **Drive less. Carpool, walk and bike, combine errands and care for your car. Be sure your gas cap is on tight.**
2. **Refuel your vehicle, mow grass and use gas powered lawn equipment and off road vehicles after 6 p.m.**
3. **Postpone chores that use oil based paint, varnishes and solvents that produce flame.**
4. **If you barbeque, use an electric starter instead of starter fluid.**
5. **Take your lunch to work**
6. **Conserve energy in your home.**

Please incorporate these tips into your daily routines. Even little changes can make a big difference and we all have a stake in the outcome.

SPREAD THE WORD BY TELLING FAMILY, FRIENDS, CO-WORKERS AND NEIGHBORS ABOUT THIS OZONE ALERT.

More information about current air quality and what you can do to help prevent ozone formation is available online at the DEQ website www.deq.louisiana.gov. Recorded ozone forecast messages from DEQ are available at 225-219-0857.

To obtain information on the highest air quality readings for the Greater Baton Rouge area please call 225-219-3543.

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