

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Region's air quality reached unhealthy Code Red levels on Monday

Jul 10, 2018

Washington, D.C. (July 10, 2018)

<p>Ground-level ozone reached unhealthy air quality levels yesterday in metropolitan Washington, marking the first “Code Red” air day for the region this year—and the first since 2012.</p>	<p><b>How many Code Red Days were there in the Washington, D.C. region between 2013 and 2017?</b></p>
<p>Today is forecast to be a “Code Orange” day, unhealthy for sensitive groups, according to data from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and Clean Air Partners. Code Orange days are one step safer than Code Red days.</p>	<p><b>Was the air quality on July 10, 2018 better or worse than the day before?</b></p>
<p>Monday had sunny skies and low wind, which can lead to bad air pollution. The high temperature was 88° F. When the air is stagnant, pollution can become more concentrated than when the air is moving quickly.</p>	<p><b>What is the meaning of the word “stagnant” in this paragraph?</b></p>
<p>During times of Code Red unhealthy air, all people should limit their outdoor activity. Sensitive groups like children, older adults, and people with respiratory and heart ailments may experience more serious health effects. Residents can check current air quality conditions at <a href="http://www.mwcog.org">www.mwcog.org</a>.</p>	<p><b>What kinds of people are considered “sensitive” to air pollution?</b></p>

<p>Exposure to air pollution can have many different health effects on people. Air pollution can irritate lungs, and may trigger asthma attacks. Long-term exposure to air pollution can also increase your risk of a heart attack or lung cancer.</p>	<p><b>Why is air pollution harmful?</b></p>
<p>According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “emissions from industrial facilities and electric utilities, motor vehicle exhaust, gasoline vapors, and chemical solvents are some of the major sources” of the pollution that is causing the Code Red day.</p>	<p><b>Name three major sources of air pollution:</b></p>
<p>On unhealthy air days, COG advises area residents to take the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Download the free air quality app at <a href="http://www.cleanairpartners.net">www.cleanairpartners.net</a> for current air quality information.</li> <li>• Turn off lights and electronics when not in use and follow tips from your electric utility about how to use less electricity to cool your home.</li> <li>• Avoid lawn mowing or use an electric mower.</li> <li>• Fill your vehicles' gas tank after sunset.</li> <li>• Take transit, carpool, or work from home.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Name three things you can turn off to help with air quality:</b></p>

Adapted from: *Region's air quality reached unhealthy Code Red levels on Monday*, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, <https://www.mwcog.org/newsroom/2018/07/10/regions-air-quality-reached-unhealthy-code-red-levels-on-monday/>

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Washington, D.C. (July 10, 2018)

<p>Ground-level ozone reached unhealthy air quality levels yesterday in metropolitan Washington, marking the first “Code Red” air day for the region this year—and the first since 2012.</p>	<p><b>How many Code Red Days were there in the Washington, D.C. region between 2013 and 2017?</b></p> <p><b>There were zero Code Red days in the D.C. area between 2013 and 2017</b></p>
<p>Today is forecast to be a “Code Orange” day, unhealthy for sensitive groups, according to data from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and Clean Air Partners. Code Orange days are one step safer than Code Red days.</p>	<p><b>Was the air quality on July 10, 2018 better or worse than the day before?</b></p> <p><b>The air quality was better.</b></p>
<p>Monday had sunny skies and low wind, which can lead to bad air pollution. The high temperature was 88° F. When the air is stagnant, pollution can become more concentrated than when the air is moving quickly.</p>	<p><b>What is the meaning of the word “stagnant” in this paragraph?</b></p> <p><b>Not moving or still</b></p>
<p>During times of Code Red unhealthy air, all people should limit their outdoor activity. Sensitive groups like children, older adults, and people with respiratory and heart ailments may experience more serious health effects. Residents can check current air quality conditions at <a href="http://www.mwcog.org">www.mwcog.org</a>.</p>	<p><b>What kinds of people are considered “sensitive” to air pollution?</b></p> <p><b>Children, older adults, and people with respiratory or heart problems</b></p>

<p>Exposure to air pollution can have many different health effects on people. Air pollution can irritate lungs, and may trigger asthma attacks. Long-term exposure to air pollution can also increase your risk of a heart attack or lung cancer.</p>	<p><b>Why is air pollution harmful?</b></p> <p><b>Air pollution can cause many different health problems like asthma attacks, heart disease, and lung cancer.</b></p>
<p>According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “emissions from industrial facilities and electric utilities, motor vehicle exhaust, gasoline vapors, and chemical solvents are some of the major sources” of the pollution that is causing the Code Red day.</p>	<p><b>Name three major sources of air pollution:</b></p> <p><b>Many possible answers including:</b></p> <p><b>Cars, trucks, power plants (electric utilities), chemical plants, gasoline, and factories (industrial facilities)</b></p>
<p>On unhealthy air days, COG advises area residents to take the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Download the free air quality app at <a href="http://www.cleanairpartners.net">www.cleanairpartners.net</a> for current air quality information.</li> <li>• Turn off lights and electronics when not in use and follow tips from your electric utility about how to use less electricity to cool your home.</li> <li>• Avoid lawn mowing or use an electric mower.</li> <li>• Fill your vehicles' gas tank after sunset.</li> <li>• Take transit, carpool, or work from home.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Name three things you can turn off to help with air quality:</b></p> <p><b>Many possible answers including:</b></p> <p><b>Computer, television, lights, video games, phone, etc.</b></p>

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