



**For immediate release:**  
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## **ADEM Promotes Air Quality Awareness**

**MONTGOMERY** – The Alabama Department of Environmental Management urges everyone to “Be Air Aware” and make personal decisions to help achieve cleaner air during National Air Quality Awareness Week, April 27 - May 1.

ADEM and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency want Alabamians to become aware of what causes air impacts and how poor air quality can affect health and quality of life. ADEM meteorologists and air monitoring personnel routinely monitor and study air quality in Alabama by observing geography, population density, weather patterns, and recent trends. This data is then utilized to compile air quality forecasts.

The air quality forecasts are prepared and issued by ADEM six days a week. Forecasts are issued year-round for the Huntsville-Decatur and Columbus-Phenix City areas and seasonally (April – October) for the Birmingham and Mobile areas. The forecasts provide information on expected concentrations of ground-level ozone and particulate matter in these areas. Alabamians can use this information to understand factors contributing to air quality and make informed decisions about outdoor activities to limit their exposure.

Air quality forecasts are based on the EPA Air Quality Index and consist of a color-coded scale that describes air quality and alerts people when they should take steps to reduce their exposure. The color-coded scale ranges from green, which means air quality is good, to maroon, which means air quality is hazardous. The air quality forecasts are available on the ADEM website at [www.adem.alabama.gov](http://www.adem.alabama.gov) and on the EPA Air Now website at [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov).

When air quality reaches the “code orange” category, certain sensitive groups of people are more likely to be affected and those groups should take steps to reduce their exposure. Reducing exposure can be as easy as limiting the intensity of exercise or other activities such as yard work. Also, those activities can be rescheduled for a time when air quality is expected to be better.

“We are committed to ensuring all Alabamians have clean air at their schools, ballparks, playgrounds, and neighborhoods,” said ADEM Director Trey Glenn. “We have recently partnered with the Alabama Department of Public Health on an asthma awareness initiative that will have far-reaching impacts for the children of this state and we will continue to implement environmental programs under the federal Clean Air Act to protect air quality in Alabama.”

So do your part, “Be Air Aware” during April 27 - May 1.

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