# VISIBLE EMISSIONS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

## FALL 2024

### **Program Information**

The Visible Emissions Certification Program consists of two "smoke schools" annually. These schools, which are conducted in April and October, are open to regulatory personnel, consultants, and members of the regulated community. The purpose of the program is to certify the participant's ability to meet federal requirements for making visible emissions determinations. The online lecture session consists of approximately two hours of presentations followed by an online exam. The in-person field session consists of two days of field training and testing. The lecture session is required for those certifying for the first time and once every three years thereafter. Field certification is valid for six months.

For more information, visit our website: https://adem.alabama.gov/programs/air/visibleEmissions.cnt

### Fall Smoke School Notification

The ADEM Visible Emissions Certification Program will conduct a certification session during April of 2024. The dates for the Fall Smoke School are as follows:

| Event                                       | Date              | Location  | Time                                   |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| Lecture                                     | September 7, 2024 | Online  | At your own pace                       |
| Field Day 1 & 2                             | October 8,-9 2024 | Dean Fain Park<br>8700 Minnie Brown Road<br>Montgomery, Alabama | Sign-in- 7:30AM<br>Examination: 8:00AM |
| Contingency Day*<br>only for weather delays | October 10, 2024  | Dean Fain Park  | Sign-in- 7:30AM<br>Examination: 8:00AM |

## Registration

Registration for the Fall Smoke School begins on July 29, 2024, and closes on September 27, 2024. Registrations received after September 27 will be subject to a late fee, in addition to the registration fee. Registration may be accomplished by:

- Registering online via credit card and/or e-check. Please visit and follow the directions listed on our registration website: https://www.alabamainteractive.org/adem\_smoke/welcome.action
- 2. Completing the form at the end of this document and submitting it along with a check to the ADEM by the deadline.
  - Please make checks or money orders payable to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.
  - Please mail applications to:

Alabama Department of Environmental Management ATTN: Air Division- Visible Emissions Program PO Box 301463 Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463

- Registration forms will not be processed without full payment.
- Faxed applications will not be processed.
- 3. On-site registration (additional fees required)

#### Fees

Fees for the Fall Smoke School session are as follows:

| Event                   | Fees     | Open Date- Close Date               |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Lecture with Field      | \$360.00 | July 29, 2024- September 27, 2024   |
| Field Only              | \$290.00 | July 29, 2024- September 27, 2024   |
| Late Fee                | \$100.00 | September 28, 2024- October 4, 2024 |
| Onsite Registration Fee | \$50.00  | October 8, 2024- October 9, 2024    |

General registration for lecture and field will be available from **July 29**, **2024 through September 27**, **2024**, via mail-in check/money order and online card payments. (Please visit the registration section above for payment instructions.)

To avoid late fees when paying with a check, mail-in applications must be postmarked by the close of business on **September 27, 2024**. Participants registering after this date will be subject to late fees in addition to their general registration fee. Late payments must be made online prior to **October 4, 2024**. Participates that register onsite will be subject to the late fee, the onsite registration fee, and the general registration fee.

Federal, State, and City **Environmental Regulatory Personnel** are exempt from fees. Please contact Anna Gardner if you believe you fall within this category.

**NOTE: ALL FEES ARE NONREFUNDABLE.** However, you may roll payments over by 1 school, if necessary.

## **Online Classroom Information**

The lecture session is required for those certifying for the first time and once every three years thereafter. The online classroom consists of seven pre-recorded lectures, each followed by a short quiz. There will be a PDF booklet within the course that may be printed and used during the quizzes, if needed. Students must have a 72% average or higher in order to pass the course and move to the field examination.

A link to the online classroom will be sent via email\* on **September 16, 2024.** The course will be open from **September 16, 2024- September 27, 2024.** Students may review the online lectures any time during this allotted time frame. The average class time is 1-2 hours.

- \*When registering, please ensure that your email address is spelled correctly. If you do not have access to the email that is listed during registration, please list an address that you have access to.
- \*If you are an individual who registers more than one person (i.e., secretarial staff, supervisor, team lead) and list your personal email for other individuals within your group (i.e., yourself and your three co-workers), you will receive the online
  - lecture invitation for everyone who has your email listed in their contact information during registration. Be sure that you are capable of forwarding these emails and/or list personal emails for each individual that you register.

#### **Field Examination Information**

The field examination will be held on October 8-9, 2024, at Dean Fain Park located at 8700 Minnie Brown Road in Montgomery, Alabama. The field exam will be conducted on the open fields located ad acent to the softball fields.

Students with a valid VE certification card must bring them to the course. If you lost your certification card, please contact Anna Gardner for a new one. New students will be given a certification card upon passing their field exam.

Students may want to bring:

- A lawn chair
- Sun protection/hat
- Weather appropriate clothing
- Clipboard, ruler, and ball-point pens

Although unlikely, a third field day may be held on October 10, 2024, as a weather make-up day in the instance that day one or two resulted in extreme weather. In this case, an email notification will be sent out to the registrants with additional information. During a normal smoke school, there will be no field exam on this third day. Please do not plan to attend the weather make-up day (October 10, 2024) unless notified via email by VE staff.

If you have a disability that might require special materials, services, or assistance, or if any further information is needed, please notify Anna Gardner.

### Maps and hotel locations

The online lecture can be taken on any computer or phone with an internet connection.

The field exam will be held at Dean Fain Park that is located at 8700 Minnie Brown Road in Montgomery Alabama. Dean Fain Park is located in the Eastchase shopping center off of Eastchase parkway. See page 7 for directions.



Restrooms are located within the concessions building in the softball field complex directly across from the exam location Please see attached photo for restroom location (circled in blue.)

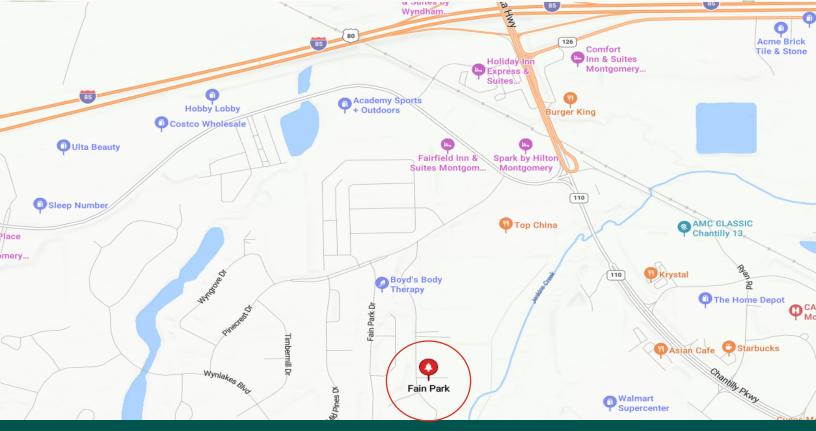


## **Contact Information**

Anna Gardner- Visible Emissions Coordinator (334) 270-5699/ (334) 399-8275 anna.gardner@adem.alabama.gov

Brandy Tiblier- Continuous Emission Monitoring Unit, Chief (334) 270-5625 <u>bltiblier@adem.alabama.gov</u>

Mark Davidson- Emissions Measurement Section, Chief (334) 270-5680 smdavidson@adem.alabama.gov



## **Dean Fain Park**

#### 8700 MINNIE BROWN ROAD MONTGOMERY AL 36117

# **VEP FIELD EXAM DIRECTIONS**

#### From Birmingham / Mobile:

- Take I-65 towards Montgomery
- Take Exit 171 and merge onto I-85 North towards Atlanta
- Take Exit 11 onto Chantilly Parkway and keep right
- Turn Right onto Eastchase Parkway
- Turn Left onto Minnie Brown Road
- Take a Left into the park entrance

#### From Atlanta:

- Take I-85 towards Montgomery
- Take Exit 11 onto Chantilly Parkway and turn left
- Turn Right onto Eastchase Parkway
- Turn Left onto Minnie Brown Road
- Take a Left into the park entrance

#### From AL-231 (from the North)

- Take 231S to Montgomery
- Take eastern bypass to I-85
- Take the ramp onto I-85 North towards Atlanta
- Take Exit 11 onto Chantilly Parkway and keep right
- Turn Right onto Eastchase Parkway
- Turn Left onto Minnie Brown Road
- Take a Left into the park entrance

#### From AL-231 (from the South)

- Take 231N to Montgomery
- Make a Right onto Taylor Road (AL-271)
- Drive several miles then turn right onto Eastchase Parkway (Eastchase Main Entrance)
- Turn Right onto Minnie Brown Road
- Take a Left into the park entrance