Help Curb Ozone Pollution

On the hottest days of summer you may notice hazy skies. The haze is likely smog, which is a combination of ground-level ozone and microscopic particles. In Spokane, ground-level ozone, an odorless, colorless gas, is the most common summer air pollutant.

In the stratosphere, “good” ozone forms a protective layer, shielding us from the ultraviolet radiation. At ground-level, “bad” ozone is formed photochemically. Pollutants, such as gasoline vapors and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs) react with nitrogen oxides and sunlight.

Ozone can trigger a variety of health problems including chest pain, coughing, throat irritation and congestion. Ozone can worsen existing lung diseases, such as asthma.

Motorist and Gas Station Operators Can help

- Drive Less. Combine errands into fewer car trips, share rides and walk or ride bikes on shorter trips.

Don’t overfill the tank. Stop at the first “click” to reduce evaporation and spills.

- Replace your gas cap tightly. Make sure your gas cap is properly-fitted, if not replace it. Secure the cap on tightly.

Gas stations can have a big impact too, since they account for 40% of the stationary (non-mobile) sources of VOC emissions in Spokane County. To reduce VOCs, it’s important (and required) for gas stations owners/operators to keep equipment well-maintained. To ensure this, stations are routinely inspected. Common “problem areas” include loose caps, cracked gaskets, and gasoline in the spill bucket.

Spokane Clean Air recommends weekly self-inspections. A self-inspection checklist is available, which includes:

- Fill Adaptor: It should be tight.
- Fill Cap: It should be in place, sealed and in good condition.
- Fill Cap Gasket: It should be present and in good condition.
- Fill Tube: The submerged fill tube should be present and in good condition.
- Fill Cap/Vapor Cap: Must match the Spokane Clean Air Notice of Construction approval requirements (if applicable) and the Spokane Clean Air registration information.

Spring-loaded fill tube: It should seal against the coaxial fitting and the gasket should be in good condition (for coaxial State I systems) and the tube should operate properly (doesn’t jam) and all springs intact.

Vapor Adapter: It should be tight and not move when jiggled (for Dual Point Stage I systems.)

Poppet Valve: It should operate properly. The gasket should be in place and in good condition (for dual point stage I systems.)

Spill Clean-up supplies: Adequate spill cleanup supplies should be on-hand and spills clean immediately.

Records: A variety of records should be kept and available on-site for review upon request:
- Current SDS sheets for materials used;
- A copy of the approved NOC;
- Total annual fuel throughput for the current year and two previous years;
- Maintenance records for the previous 24 months of operation, including dates, nature of maintenance, and all certification tests performed.

For more information, please call (509) 477-4727.
Introducing Vaughn Roadruck

If you haven’t met him yet, let us introduce Vaughn Roadruck, the newest member of our Inspection Team. Vaughn joined Spokane Clean Air last November.

Vaughn was born and raised in Spokane where he was the 5th generation to live in the same farm house. He graduated from Mead High School in 2002 and joined the United States Air Force where he served until 2010.

Vaughn graduated from Eastern Washington University in 2013 with a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies in Computer Programming, Urban and Regional Planning, and Geographical Information Systems.

Vaughn married his wife Amanda in 2015 and they welcomed their first child in June of 2017. Vaughn enjoys spending time with his family, fishing, and exploring the Inland Empire.

Kudos to Century Link

When our inspectors see something great during an inspection, they like to give a “shout out” to the company. In this case, Inspector Vaughn Roadruck was very impressed during a recent inspection at Century Link and with Century Link employees George Vedder and Bryan Rask.

George Vedder has been a Central Office Technician for multiple Century Link facilities in the Spokane area for the past 5 years. It is apparent when you visit his facilities that George takes his responsibilities to maintain their emergency generators and other equipment very seriously due to their immaculate condition.

George and his supervisor Bryan Rask embody Century Link’s commitment to reducing the emissions they contribute to our shared air. George prides himself on the fact that he knows every item in their NOCs (Notice of Construction permits) and he makes sure every requirement is not only met but exceeded.

George and the Century Link team go above and beyond to make sure that all documentation is well organized and easily accessible.

And they will happily tell you how proud they are of their 2015-2016 silver award for “Doing our Share for Clean Air,” and how much they look forward to attaining a gold award in the future.

Regulation & Program Update

Effective July 3, 2017 - Following a public comment period and public hearing, the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency’s Board of Directors voted to approve amendments to SRCAA Regulation I, Article X: Fees and Charges, and Consolidated Fee Schedule bring certain fees in line with full cost recovery as mandated by the Board.

What are the key amendments?

- A revised fee calculation method to allow for hourly fee rates to reflect program hourly costs.
- A revised fee structure for:
  - Modifications, Revisions to Notice of Construction (NOC) permits
  - Paving waiver permits
  - “Other outdoor burn” permits
- Text and formatting updates to improve clarity, readability and consistency.

Who may be affected by these amendments?

- Businesses that apply for NOC revisions, Emission Reduction Credits, Alternate Opacity, and/or Other Requests. Spokane Clean Air receives an average of ten of these applications and requests per year.
- Businesses that apply for a Paving Waiver. Spokane Clean Air averages six applications per year.
- Businesses or individuals who apply for a Variance Request. Spokane Clean Air receives less than one variance request per year on average.
- Businesses or individuals who apply for an “other outdoor burn” permit. This is for burning not covered in common burn permit categories and generally limited to burning deemed necessary for public health and safety. Spokane Clean Air receives less than one request per year on average.
Control Dust – Prepare Now, Avoid Fines

In 2016, Spokane Clean Air received 103 complaints about excessive dust emissions. The main sources of dust (particulate matter) include paved and unpaved road surfaces, construction and demolition activities, parking lots, storage piles, and handling and transfer of materials.

Agency inspectors respond to complaints and conduct surveillance throughout the county, and will perform on-the-spot inspections if dust problems are observed. Documented violations may result in enforcement action, including civil penalties.

For first-time offenses, the company may receive a warning to correct the problem. Common corrective measures include deploying water trucks more frequently, hiring sweeper trucks, applying chemical soil stabilizer, seeding with compost/mulch, and training employees on dust control requirements. In some cases, even if it’s a first offense, a Notice of Violation (NOV) may be issued to the company. NOVs are typically followed by an assessment of civil penalty which starts at about $1,000 and can reach up to $10,000 per day, per violation, depending on factors such as the company’s compliance history and any financial benefit gained by not adequately controlling the dust from the outset.

Is dust really a concern?
Dust is an air quality concern, especially during the dry summer months. If not controlled, dust can be a health hazard and a public nuisance.

When inhaled, fine dust particles travel deep into the lungs, increasing breathing problems, damaging lung tissue, and aggravating existing health problems.

How to comply and avoid penalties
The best way to avoid costly violations is to monitor your operations and plan for dust control.

Know the rules
✓ precautions must be taken to prevent particulate matter from becoming airborne
✓ depositing particulate matter on the property of others is prohibited
✓ dirt and mud must be removed from equipment and vehicles before movement onto paved public roads
✓ dirt and mud tracked onto paved public roadways must be promptly removed

Minimize dust
Typically, one or more of the following strategies is recommended for minimizing dust emissions:
✓ apply water or chemical dust suppressants
✓ minimize activities during windy conditions
✓ use covered chutes, covered containers, or collection and control equipment when handling, transferring, and/or storing dusty materials
✓ minimize free fall distances for dusty materials
✓ vegetate or mulch dusty areas
✓ maintain adequate freeboard and cover loads when transporting dusty materials
✓ keep paved surfaces clean to minimize re-entrainment of dust into the air
✓ restrict access or limit vehicle speeds on unpaved areas to 15 mph or less

Minimize tracking
✓ pave or gravel unpaved surfaces
✓ pave or install gravel buffer areas at exits
✓ clean vehicle tires and undercarriages before traveling on paved roads (wash stations)
✓ promptly clean up material that has been tracked onto paved roadways (wet flush/spray off, street sweep/vacuum)

For additional information on dust control please call 477-4727.
Transferring Ownership: 90-day Notice

When ownership or operation of a registered facility has transferred to another party, the new owner or operator must report the change to Spokane Clean Air within 90 days of the change. Report by submitting a completed “Change of Ownership/Operator” notification form. Failure to report a change of ownership/operator within 90 days may result in the issuance of a Notice of Violation and assessment of a civil penalty. New owners or operators should be aware that any liability for fee payment, including payment of delinquent fees and other penalties, survive any transfer of ownership.

Permanent Closure - If a business closes or permanently discontinues operation of air contaminant sources or activities, the owner or operator must report the closure to Spokane Clean Air within 90 days of the closure. Report by submitting a completed “Business/Source Closure” notification form.

In the event of a permanent closure, all equipment that releases air contaminants must be permanently removed from the business or configured so that it is incapable of generating air contaminants (e.g. disconnection of power to the equipment, mechanical position that prevents processing, placing locks on the equipment to prevent operation).

Temporary Closure - In the event the owner or operator of an air contaminant source chooses to discontinue operations, but continues to pay the annual registration fee to Spokane Clean Air, the registration and status of the equipment will be maintained as if the facility were still in operation. In this situation, the reporting of the closure is not necessary. This may be done for up to five years after the air contaminant source has discontinued operation.

There are advantages to maintaining registration. Once an air contaminant source has been reported “closed” to Spokane Clean Air, a new Notice of Construction application for approval will likely be required prior to operating the air contaminant source again. New approval may be contingent on upgrading pollution controls and payment of associated fees.

Call (509) 477-4727 for more information.

Ask Spokane Clean Air

Q: After my business was inspected by Spokane Clean Air, I received a Compliance Status Report. On the report, there were a few Corrective Actions noted that needed to be done. So, what exactly is a Corrective Action and how does it differ from a Notice of Violation?

A: At the conclusion of most routine inspections, Spokane Clean Air inspectors will issue a Compliance Status Report (CSR). Occasionally, if compliance issues are found, there may be items which need corrective action. A due date for completion is usually given for each corrective action required and a request that Spokane Clean Air be notified upon each completion. Failure to meet a due date can lead to a Notice of Violation (NOV) being issued.

So, it is important that businesses address each compliance issue by the due date and notify the inspector of the action taken. Documentation that the work was done may be required to show the compliance issue was addressed. A follow-up inspection may also be conducted. If more time is needed, the business needs to contact the inspector before the due date to request an extension. There is no guarantee that an extension will be granted.

In some cases, a CSR may not be issued in the field. The inspector may send a letter in the mail. In some instances, a NOV might still be issued after a Corrective Action.
Spokane Clean Air is proud to recognize businesses for their efforts to reduce air emissions. Every two years we solicit applications from our registered sources. Businesses that meet air quality requirements receive “silver” recognition. Businesses that "meet and exceed" requirements receive "gold" recognition. To learn more, visit spokanecleanair.org/business/recognition.

**Companies to Applaud**

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### GOLD

- A1 Gas & Grocery
- ADM Milling Plant, Trent Ave
- American Way Collision Center
- BMC West
- Bonneville Power Administration
- Can-Am Body Shop
- Caterpillar
- Davenport Hotel
- Dishman Dodge Body Shop
- Ed’s Premier Auto Body
- Expeditors International of WA
- Global Metal Technologies
- Hydrostraw LLC
- Itron Inc
- J & A Body and Fender
- K & M Unibody Works
- Kaiser Permanente (2 locations)
- KXLY Broadcast Group
- Maaco Auto Painting & Body Work
- Northwest Steel Fab
- Rocket Market
- Spokane Galvanizing Inc
- Spokane Reg’l Business Center
- Thomas Hammer Coffee Roasting
- Walker’s Furniture, Inc
- Washington Auto Collision
- Waverly’s Coffee
- Wittkopf Landscape Supplies

### SILVER

- A1 Illuminated Sign Co. Inc
- Action Materials Inc
- ADM Milling, Cheney
- ADM Mix Plant, Sprague Ave
- A-L Compressed Gases, Inc
- American West Chrome
- Animal Clinic of Spokane
- Auto Masters
- Barker Express
- Bong’s Grocery & Deli
- Broadway mini mart
- Chattaroy Quick Stop
- Central Premix
- City Food Mart
- City of Deer Park Airport
- City of Spokane - Fleet Services
- Coastline Collision Repair
- Cooperative Supply Inc
- Costco Wholesale #66
- Costco Wholesale #670
- Cravens Coffee Co
- Cylinder Head Service
- Dave’s Auto Body & Glass, Inc
- Driscoll One Stop
- Exxon Mobil Spokane Terminal
- Fairchild Air Force Base
- Four Lakes Grocery
- Freeman Store
- Glenn Dorman
- Grocery Boys
- Harry’s Food Mart
- Hillyard Grocery Inc
- Indian Trail Service Center
- Indy Food Mart
- Inland Fixture Co
- Jensen Auto Body
- Medical Lake Quick Stop
- Miller’s one stop
- Mission Food Mart
- Monroe Food Mart
- Moody Aviation
- Mr Touchup
- Navy Operational Support Center
- Nelson’s Towing, Repair, Autobody
- Norlift Inc
- NE Washington ESD101
- Pearson Packaging Systems
- Pressworks
- Pronto Plus
- Pro Recycle
- RAJA Market
- River Park Square
- Road Products Inc
- S & B Mart
- SCRAPs
- Shanahan & Sons
- Snow Peak Forest Products
- Solid Waste Systems
- Spokane Metals, LLC
- Super C Store
- Super Gas & Grocery
- T2 Services
- The Gas Company
- Tom Sawyer Country Coffee
- Travis Iron Works
- Tri State Metal Fab
- United Pacific
- Unity Food Mart
- US Bank Bldg
- Valley Equipment Co, Inc
- Valley Grocery & Gas
- West Plains Conoco
- White Block Co Inc
Air Quality Calendar

Spokane Clean Air’s Board of Directors meet at 9:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month, unless otherwise publicized. Meetings are held at the agency’s office, 3104 E. Augusta Ave. Meeting agendas and approved minutes are posted online www.SpokaneCleanAir.org.

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency Board of Directors:

Al French, Chair, Spokane County Commissioner
Tom Brattebo, Vice Chair, Member-at-Large
Kevin Freeman, Small Cities & Towns Representative
Carmen Nezat, City of Spokane Representative
Rod Higgins, City of Spokane Valley Representative

Reduce Vehicle Idling At Your Workplace

Spokane Clean Air is implementing a “No-Idle Zone” program at elementary and middle schools in Spokane County. In addition, some cities/towns in the county are supporting the “reduce unnecessary idling” message in their communities, including posting No Idle Zone signs in various locations.

So, why should your organization consider adopting a No Idle Zone policy at your workplace? Here are a few reasons:

✔ Vehicle fleets: Overall fuel savings, longer engine life, longer time between oil/filter changes
✔ Improved air quality and less noise, making for a healthier work environment

To get on-board, contact us to order your “No-Idle Zone” signs today. The first sign is free, after that they are $25. Place your sign(s) in prominent idling locations, such as fleet yards, loading docks, etc.

Even if you aren’t interested in signs, it is still a good idea to talk with your employees and fleet service providers during staff meetings or training sessions about turning engines off instead of idling.

To get a free “No-Idle Zone” sign, we consider the proposed site for effectiveness/impact and your commitment to post and maintain the sign. Our agency will follow up to assess your results. To request sign(s), e-mail lwoodard@spokanecleanair.org, or call (509) 477-4727, ext. # 115.