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****HEALTH ADVISORY****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Air Quality Warning/Health Advisory:
Air Quality in Harris County Reaches Level Purple**

Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services (HCPHES) is issuing an “*Air Quality Warning/Health Advisory*” for the Harris County-Galveston area. **Level Purple Ozone** has been reached and can have detrimental impact on the health of the general population.

“**LEVEL PURPLE**” means that the air quality is considered “*Very Unhealthy*” for All Groups. HCPHES recommends that people avoid all outdoor exertion during Level Purple ozone conditions.

Active people of all ages are at increased risk of experiencing negative health effects because during physical activity ozone penetrates deeper into the parts of the lungs that are more vulnerable to injury. Also, those with respiratory diseases may experience health effects earlier and at lower ozone levels than less sensitive individuals.

HEALTH EFFECTS of high levels of ozone might include coughing, throat irritation, an uncomfortable feeling in the chest, and/or difficulty breathing. Ozone also makes people more sensitive to allergens, the most common triggers of asthma attacks. Ozone can also increase susceptibility to respiratory infections.

To view current ozone levels, go to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s web site at: http://www.tnrc.state.tx.us/cgi-bin/monops/select_curlev?region12_cur.gif. To receive emails regarding ozone Watches and Warnings from specific ozone monitors, go to the Harris County Office of Emergency Management’s website at: <http://www.hcoem.org/> and select “Subscribe to Ozone Alerts”. *Individuals (especially parents, athletic coaches, school nurses, health care professionals and those with respiratory illnesses) are encouraged to sign-up for these email notices.* Additional information go to: <http://www.hd.co.harris.tx.us/pcd/pcd.htm> and <http://www.tnrc.state.tx.us/air/monops/index.html#ozdata>.