

# Air Quality Flag Program

AUTUMN 2020 NEWSLETTER



## WILDFIRE SMOKE & COVID-19



With the wildfire season upon us, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the US Department of Agriculture have put out new information about wildfire smoke and COVID-19. They are providing resources for communities affected by wildfire smoke during community spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Find out answers to questions like who is at risk, where to find information, and what actions to take when wildfires are in your area.

[https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/covid-19/reduce\\_exposure\\_to\\_wildfire\\_smoke\\_covid-19.html](https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/covid-19/reduce_exposure_to_wildfire_smoke_covid-19.html)

## COCO ASTHMA AWARENESS VIDEO

Kim Bartels, Children's Environmental Health Program Coordinator in US EPA Region 8, writes,

“At the beginning of Asthma Awareness Month, I mentioned to our public affairs folks that it would be really fun if our Regional Administrator would do a reading of EPA's asthma awareness book,

*Why is Coco Orange*, to post on social media. I wasn't sure if anyone would go for it, but in keeping with the trend during our stay at home time of people posting videos reading aloud from their favorite books, I thought it was worth an ask. I think it was a fitting way to wrap up Asthma Awareness Month last week. ENJOY!”

<https://www.facebook.com/eparegion8/videos/176564297083503>

Well done, Kim! It goes to show, it can't hurt to ask!

## WELCOME TO OUR AQFP INTERN



We'd like to introduce our wonderful intern, Damini Sullins, who joined us at the end of May. Damini has a BS in Biology from Fayetteville State University and will get her MS in Biological & Biomedical Sciences in December from North Carolina Central University. Damini is doing much-needed data collection and program outreach for the Flag Program and is also working on the Air Quality Teacher workshop and Air Quality Sensors teams. We're thrilled to have her on board until the end of December and appreciate all the hard work she's getting done!

## WHAT'S IN A WIDGET?

Widgets can seem confusing, but they're actually fairly straightforward. In the case of the Air Quality Flag Program widget, it's one line of code. Add it to your webpage and it will automatically show the air quality forecast for the day- every day- without you having to lift a finger again.

San Francisco

Today's Air Quality Forecast  
07/24/20

OZONE Good  
PM2.5 Good

Current Air Quality | Tomorrow's Forecast  
Air Quality Index | Activity Guidance

Get air quality data where you live»

Press Releases > All Press Releases

- EPA fines Hawai'i local and state governments, requires three cesspool closures in effort to protect groundwater  
Release Date: 07/22/2020
- Pacific Energy to pay civil penalty for violations of the Clean Water Act at the American Samoa Terminal  
Release Date: 07/22/2020
- U.S. EPA Awards over \$780,000 to UC Riverside to Advance Research Related to Air Quality  
Release Date: 07/09/2020
- U.S. EPA Awards 2020 Environmental Justice Small Grants to Three California Organizations

The graphic above shows the EPA Region 9 flag widget on their website. To add a widget to your web page, go to <https://www.airnow.gov/air-quality-flag-program-widget/>.

**AQFP Postcard**

Use AQFP postcards to share the air quality message! Order your supply for free through NSCEP at <https://www.epa.gov/nscep> and search for 456F18003.

## FLAG YOUR MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cindy Lilly, a 7th Grade Science Teacher and Science Club Co-chair in Myrtle Beach, SC sent this in:

“One of my Breathe Better Schools (Ocean Bay Middle School) sent me their morning announcements for Air Quality. I wanted to share it with you because I really like how they have personalized the messaging in a simple way. The school is doing other great things for the environment as well and many of them focused on air quality.”

| Air Quality Flag Program       | Morning Announcements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GOOD                           | <p>Giving a morning announcement about the air quality flag color for the day will let everyone know the air quality conditions and the actions to take to reduce exposure to air pollution.</p> <p>Good morning, fellow students! It's A GREAT day to have fun outside!<br/>The Air is clean and the flag is GREEN.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| MODERATE                       | <p>Good morning, everyone! It's a YELLOW Day. It's a GOOD day to be active outside!<br/>Anyone who is super sensitive to air pollution should watch for symptoms.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS | <p>OK, everyone, it's an ORANGE day! The air is not as clean.<br/>It's OK to be active outside for a short time, like recess and physical education (PE).<br/>If you have sports practice today, take plenty of breaks and do less-intense drills.<br/>If you have asthma, follow your asthma action plan and keep your inhaler handy.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| UNHEALTHY                      | <p>Good morning! Listen up, everyone! It's a RED day! The air is UNHEALTHY!<br/>The red flag means we can still go outside today but we need to take it a little easier.<br/>That means take more breaks and do less intense activities.<br/>We need to move our longer activities indoors (or reschedule).<br/>(If it's an ozone day, the morning is probably fine for all outdoor activities - check the current air quality conditions on <a href="https://www.airnow.gov">AirNow.gov</a> before you go out.)<br/>If you have asthma, follow your asthma action plan and keep your inhaler handy.</p> |
| VERY UNHEALTHY                 | <p>Good morning everyone! Today's air quality is VERY UNHEALTHY! It's a PURPLE Day! We'll be moving activities indoors (or reschedule them to another day).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

Great job, Ocean Bay Middle School!

### FLAG TEAM CONTACTS

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