

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

## INSTRUCTIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

DIRECTED TO: District Engineers	AUTHORITY:
GENERAL SUBJECT: Air	NUMBER: IIM-ED-200.4
SPECIFIC SUBJECT: Ozone Alert Procedures ( <a href="#">9VAC5-20-206</a> )	DATE: 03/28/2023
	SUPERSEDES: IIM-ED-200.3
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Changes are shaded.

### CURRENT REVISIONS

The Memorandum associated with this IIM has been updated to reflect the 2023 Ozone Alert Procedures.

### PURPOSE

The intent of this document is to detail the measures that must be implemented by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in designated Emissions Control Areas (as outlined in [9VAC5-20-206](#)) to reduce air pollutants on Code Red Air Quality Action Days, and are strongly recommended to be implemented on Code Orange Air Quality Action Days.

### SCOPE & APPLICABILITY

VDOT, on an annual basis, releases a memorandum that outlines the measures that shall be implemented to reduce air pollution on Code Red Air Quality Action Days, and are strongly recommended to be implemented on Orange Air Quality Action Days as designated by Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Stephen C. Brich, P.E.  
Commissioner

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March 22, 2023

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Kenneth H. King, P.E.  
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**FROM:** Stephen C. Brich, P.E. *Stephen C. Brich*

**SUBJECT:** VDOT Ozone Alert Procedures

The 2023 ozone forecasting season will begin Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. As part of an area designated by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) as an Emissions Control Area for ozone-forming air pollutants, please ensure that your District implements the measures outlined below to help reduce air pollution when air quality is poor. These measures must be implemented on Code Red Air Quality Action Days, and are strongly recommended to be implemented on Code Orange Air Quality Action Days. The VDEQ will designate an Air Quality Action Day when air pollution is predicted to be at unhealthy levels on the following day.

#### VDOT Actions on Air Quality Action Days:

1. *Reduce Travel* – Minimize unnecessary travel to the extent possible by chaining trips together, use transit, and/or participate in ridesharing.
2. *Postpone Mowing* – Postpone the use of gasoline and diesel powered mowers, weed eaters and other similar gasoline engines.
3. *Changeable Message Signs (CMS)* – If variable message signs are not needed for emergency purposes, then they should alert the public of the Air Quality Action Day as soon as possible after notification. VDOT personnel responsible for operating CMS will follow established practices for posting appropriate messages on this subject for the type of sign being utilized.
4. *Reduce Electricity Usage* – Dim or turn off unnecessary lights, turn off supplemental appliances and maintain air conditioning at reasonable temperatures at VDOT facilities (78°F or above).

5. *Postpone Painting* – Postpone use of oil based paints and solvents.
6. *Safety Measures* – Limit prolonged outdoor exertion.

Your regional Transportation Operation Center will notify you by e-mail of a pending Code Red or Code Orange Air Quality Action Day forecast. This notice will be provided the day before the VDEQ predicts that unhealthy air pollution levels will occur. Please forward this memorandum to your staff and encourage them to follow these precautionary actions. If you or your staff has any questions regarding these measures, please contact Jim Ponticello at 804-371-6769.

Attachment

cc: Mr. Jim Ponticello

**Commonwealth of Virginia**  
**Volatile Organic Compound and Nitrogen Oxides Emissions Control Areas**

Table 1. Jurisdictions by VDOT District located in Volatile Organic Compound and Nitrogen Oxides Emissions Control Areas.

	<b>DISTRICT</b>					
	<b>Northern Virginia</b>	<b>Fredericksburg</b>	<b>Staunton</b>	<b>Hampton Roads</b>	<b>Richmond</b>	<b>Salem</b>
<b>JURISDICTION</b>	Alexandria Arlington Fairfax City Fairfax County Falls Church Loudoun Manassas Manassas Park Prince William	Fredericksburg Spotsylvania Stafford Gloucester	Frederick Winchester	Chesapeake Hampton Isle of Wight James City Newport News Norfolk Poquoson Portsmouth Suffolk Virginia Beach Williamsburg York	Charles City Chesterfield Colonial Heights Hanover Henrico Hopewell Petersburg Prince George Richmond	Botetourt Roanoke City Roanoke County Salem Vinton