

How to know if there is smog today?

When poor air quality is predicted, an Info-Smog advisory is issued to the public in the media and on Environment Canada's web site:

www.qc.ec.gc.ca/atmos/smog

Info-Smog is an air quality forecast and warning service that informs and advises the public when smog has or is likely to reach levels harmful to health and the environment.

For smog advisories

Environment Canada
www.qc.ec.gc.ca/atmos/smog

For the air quality index in Montréal

Ville de Montréal
www.rsqa.qc.ca

For the air quality index elsewhere in Quebec

Ministère du Développement durable,
de l'Environnement et des Parcs
www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/air/iqa

For more information about the health effects of smog

Direction de santé publique of the
Agence de la santé et des services sociaux
de Montréal
www.santepub-mtl.qc.ca/Environnement/smog

Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux
www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/environnement

Info-Smog is produced in partnership with:

Environment Canada

**Ministère du Développement durable,
de l'Environnement et des Parcs**

Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux

**Direction de santé publique of the Agence
de la santé et des services sociaux de
Montréal**

Ville de Montréal

Également disponible en français.



100%



Studio de design graphique, Ville de Montréal 07.46.635-1 (06-09)

Info-Smog

Air quality forecast and
warning service

Feel like
clearing
the air?

Air quality:
a question of health!

Canada  Montréal  Québec 

It's Saturday and it's a beautiful day...

Michelle and her son, Eric, have planned to go for a bike ride. Eric has severe asthma that is difficult to control and his doctor has warned him about smog.

A question of health

Smog, a yellowish brown haze made up of air pollutants, has a number of harmful human health effects:

- irritation of eyes and respiratory airways, cough
- aggravation of symptoms in persons with cardiac or respiratory conditions, such as asthma, bronchitis or emphysema
- premature death in adults with chronic cardiorespiratory diseases.

DURING A SMOG EPISODE, VULNERABLE PERSONS SHOULD AVOID ENGAGING IN STRENUOUS OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.

Eric's last asthma attack was back in January. Believing that smog only occurred in summer, Michelle did not think that her son could be affected by poor air quality in winter. They learned the hard way that smog can occur year round.

Smog, in winter and in summer

Summer smog is formed mainly on very hot, sunny days. It consists primarily of fine particulates and ozone. Ground-level ozone forms when nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds react in the presence of sunlight. The precursor pollutants to ground-level ozone are emitted mainly by vehicle exhaust and industrial sources.

Winter smog is formed when there is a high concentration of fine particulates. Due to low winds and temperature inversion, these pollutants are trapped at ground level. In Quebec, residential wood heating is the primary source, followed by industry and transportation.

Warning! Smog is a phenomenon that can occur in urban, suburban and rural areas alike.



How to contribute to reducing smog

- Use public transit
- Limit the use of wood-burning fireplaces and stoves during the winter

Carpooling, walking, cycling, avoiding unnecessary idling, and obeying the speed limit are simple actions that contribute to improving air quality at all times.

Michelle and Eric had a great time at the Museum of Science. That evening, Michelle checks the Info-Smog web site once again. The advisory has been lifted and the forecast calls for good air quality. Perfect!

They'll go on their bike ride tomorrow!

Michelle checks the Info-Smog web site and sees that today is not the best day for a bike ride; a smog advisory is in effect. They'll go to the Museum of Science instead, something Eric has been talking about for weeks. Michelle prefers not to take the car, knowing that cars are one of the causes of smog. They'll take the bus instead!

