

## EPA's Air Quality Index (AQI) for 24-hour Fine Particle Pollution (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

24-hr PM <sub>2.5</sub> (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	AQI Categories	AQI Values	AQI Cautionary Statements	AQI Health Effects Statements
0 – 12.0	<b>Good</b>	0 - 50	None	None
12.1 – 35.4	<b>Moderate</b>	51 - 100	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.	Respiratory symptoms possible in unusually sensitive individuals, possible aggravation of heart or lung disease in people with cardiopulmonary disease and older adults.
35.5 – 55.4	<b>Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups</b>	101 - 150	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.	Increasing likelihood of respiratory symptoms in sensitive individuals, aggravation of heart or lung disease and premature mortality in people with cardiopulmonary disease and older adults.
55.5 – 150.4	<b>Unhealthy</b>	151 - 200	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion; everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.	Increased aggravation of heart or lung disease and premature mortality in people with cardiopulmonary disease and older adults; increased respiratory effects in general population.
150.5 – 250.4	<b>Very Unhealthy</b>	201 - 300	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.	Significant aggravation of heart or lung disease and premature mortality in people with cardiopulmonary disease and older adults; significant increase in respiratory effects in general population.
Greater than 250.5	<b>Hazardous</b>	Over 300	Everyone should avoid all physical activity outdoors; people with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should remain indoors and keep activity levels low.	Serious aggravation of heart or lung disease and premature mortality in people with cardiopulmonary disease and older adults; serious risk of respiratory effects in general population.

**Who is “SENSITIVE” to PM<sub>2.5</sub>?** “People with heart or lung disease, older adults, children, and people of lower socioeconomic status are the groups most at risk.” See EPA’s Technical Assistance Document (*link below*). Also at higher risk: **prenatal children** (low birth weight, pre-term birth, and IQ reduction), **diabetics**, and people with higher exposures such as **athletes** exposed during exercise.

**Sources:**

**National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter - Final Rule, effective March 18, 2013**, Federal Register, Vol 78, No. 10, Jan 15, 2013, p 3181

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-15/pdf/2012-30946.pdf>

**Revised Air Quality Standards for Particle Pollution and Updates to the Air Quality Index (AQI)**, Dec 14, 2012, p 4

<http://www.epa.gov/pm/2012/decfsstandards.pdf>

**Technical Assistance Document for the Reporting of Daily Air Quality**, Sept 2012, pp 2 and 8-11 <http://www.epa.gov/airnow/aqi-technical-assistance-document-sep2012.pdf>

**Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter - Final Report**, Dec 2009 <http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=216546>