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Air Pollution Advisory

The Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County is issuing an Air Pollution Advisory due to elevated levels of **Particulate Matter of 2.5 micrometers or less**. This advisory is effective **immediately**, today **10/3/2023**. We are experiencing elevated levels of PM2.5 in Hillsborough County and expect levels to reach the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups Air Quality Index range.

Particulate Matter (PM) is one of the US EPA Criteria Air Pollutants and has an established National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) based on health criteria. Particulate matter is the term for a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air. Particulate matter can be defined as PM10 which are inhalable particles of 10 micrometers and smaller or PM2.5 which are inhalable particles of 2.5 micrometers and smaller. Particulate matter can be emitted directly from a source (construction sites, unpaved roads, fires, etc.) or can form in the atmosphere as a result of complex reactions of chemicals such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. Additional information regarding Particulate Matter can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution>

Air Quality Index values from **101 - 150** are considered **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups**. Individuals with pre-existing respiratory ailments, the elderly or the very young may want to take this into consideration when planning any outside activities. **This alert remains in effect until midnight tonight, 10/3/2023**.

The outlook for **tomorrow** is conditions which are leading to today's elevated levels are not expected for tomorrow. If you have any questions or need further information, please call: The Environmental Protection Commission, Air Division **Jason Waters at (813) 627-2600 x1269**.

Environmental Excellence in a Changing World

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