For Immediate Release

Ground-level Ozone Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department reports that ground-level ozone has reached the Moderate Level, which the Air Quality Index defines as “unhealthy for sensitive groups”.

Ground-level ozone pollution may be harmful to health and can irritate the respiratory system, reduce lung function, and aggravate asthma and chronic lung diseases. People with heart or lung disease, senior adults, active adults and children are more at risk and should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.

Summer weather can be a cause in the formation of ground-level ozone. Elevated levels of this pollutant form on hot, sunny days when temperatures are in the upper 90’s, and when the wind is very light. Ozone levels generally peak in late afternoon to early evening hours.

For more information on ground-level ozone pollution and to view the daily ground-level ozone forecast for the Springfield area, visit www.springfieldmo.gov/health/air.html or www.airnow.gov .

For more information, contact: Katie Towns-Jeter MPH, Public Information Administrator, 417-874-1205