

Let's SOAR!

Stop Pollution
Obey Laws
Always Improve
Reduce Waste

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If you would like to contribute
to this newsletter, please
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AIR QUALITY AWARENESS WEEK (4 - 8 MAY)

SARAH OTTO

There are 6 common pollutants in our air that can harm your health: particulate matter, ground-level ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and lead, with particle pollution and ground-level ozone being the most wide-spread.

Particulate Matter: Very fine dust, soot, smoke, and droplets formed from chemical reactions when burning fuels. These fine particles can get deep into the lungs and can aggravate asthma, cause acute respiratory symptoms, reduce lung function, and cause chronic bronchitis.

Ground-level Ozone: Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), released by gasoline burned in cars, petroleum refineries, chemical manufacturing plants, and other industrial facilities, comprise one of the main ingredients for ground-level ozone, which, in turn, is the primary component of smog. Repeated exposure to ozone can make people more susceptible to respiratory infections and lung inflammation

Better Air means better health!

IMPROVING OUR AIR QUALITY

MARVIN PAIR

On September 24, 2019, the EPA designated Bexar County as a nonattainment area for ozone. The federal standard is for an area to be below 70 parts per billion (ppb). Bexar County has passed the federal standard of 70 parts per billion (ppb), by just a few ppb, and has thus entered into the marginal status. If the county is not able to get below the standard by September 24, 2021, then the county may be elevated to moderate status. JBSA has opportunities to help the county meet the 70 ppb standard for ozone.

Incentives to reduce emissions from vehicles and equipment, in the form of grants, are provided by the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP). There are nine different grant programs under TERP, and two may apply to JBSA. The Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program (TNGVGP) provides grants to replace medium- and heavy-duty diesel and gasoline vehicles with natural-gas-powered vehicles. The Light-Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase or Lease Incentive Program (LDPLIP) offers rebates to those who purchase or lease new light-duty vehicles powered by compressed natural gas, liquid petroleum gas, hydrogen fuel cells, or electric drive. The Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) has queried if JBSA purchased any alternative-fuel and/or electric vehicles in 2019. More information about TERP may be found at the following website-
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp>

Idling from heavy-duty and light-duty vehicles uses an estimated 6 BILLION gallons of fuel every year. Because of advances in vehicle technology, it is no longer necessary to "warm up" a vehicle, and today's vehicles do not suffer damage from being turned on and off. An idling policy has been instituted by JBSA and was readdressed in a memorandum from General Lenderman in 2019. The policy articulates a state regulation from the Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC); stating no person shall allow "a motor vehicle to idle for more than five consecutive minutes." Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting your vehicle.

Benefits from reducing long-duration idling include:

- Decreasing fuel costs;
- Decreasing engine maintenance costs;
- Extending engine life;
- Improving operator well-being by decreasing noise levels; and
- Decreasing emissions that are harmful to the environment.

Progress towards achieving attainment status for ozone in Bexar County can only be done by working together, and JBSA can be a leader in this endeavor by reexamining opportunities discussed. Please address any further ideas and comments to the editor, and thank you for reading!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

Check out these references for more information:

For current Air Quality Data in your area - Air Now:

<https://www.airnow.gov/>

EPA - The Plain English Guide to the Clean Air Act:

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-08/documents/peg.pdf>

EPA - Air Pollution Monitoring:

<https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/montring.html>

US Department of Energy - Idling Reduction for Personal Vehicles:

https://afdc.energy.gov/files/u/publication/idling_personal_vehicles.pdf

TCEQ's Take Care of Texas - Keep Our Air Clean:

<http://takecareoftexas.org/conservation-tips/keep-our-air-clean>

For more information on our Air Quality program on JBSA,
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