



Huntington Beach Union High School District Board Policies and Administrative Regulations

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Business & Non-Instructional Operations

Air Pollution

General Information

1. All district schools are located in the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Area 18 which will normally experience pollution episodes less than five (5) days per year and generally during the hours of 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
2. Incidents of predicted or actual air pollution are termed "episodes." Episodes occur when federally specified pollutants, including, ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and ozone/sulfur dioxide combined exceed or are predicted to exceed certain levels expressed as parts per million (ppm). Current criteria for major pollutant levels are in the Air Pollution Episode Handbook.
3. The SCAQMD operates a radio-transmitted episode notification system and a dedicated radio receiver located at the education center monitors their transmissions. Notification of pollution episodes are received and transmitted to all district sites from this location. Episodes are predicted, declared and terminated by the geographic areas mentioned above.
4. Episode notifications are given in stages, which are established by different degrees of potential danger to health. Stage I is the most frequent episode, and requires action to protect children and respiratory patients. Stages II and III also involve actions to reduce the pollution itself. Stage III actions (which have never yet been experienced) may include closing schools and industries. Notification procedures include information that a Stage is either "predicted" or "attained."
5. District areas, although not often afflicted by pollution episodes, are recognized as pollution generating areas and are subject to requirements to reduce pollution generating activities (generally operation of motor vehicles and motorized equipment) during predicted or attained pollution episodes.
6. The district transportation manager and maintenance and operation supervisors are responsible for receiving pollution episode information and implementing it in their areas of responsibility.

Air Pollution (continued)

General Information (continued)

7. The district safety/workers' compensation coordinator is responsible for implementing procedures and notifying E. C. staff personnel upon receipt of episode information.

Air Pollution Episodes and Required Responses

Air pollution episodes announced by the SCAQMD fall into two categories: "predicted" and "attained." Within each category, there are three stages: Stage I, Stage II, and Stage III. The required actions that are appropriate at each type and stage of an episode are described below. Remember that the district is in an area which "generates" pollution; and we may be required to take action to curtail smog-generating activities, even though our skies are clear and there is a good breeze blowing.

REMINDER: Most frequently Area #18 is only a SOURCE area. We are asked to limit driving when Stage I or Stage II alerts are predicted for inland areas.

1. Stage I "Predicted"

Notify all staff and students of predicted air pollution alert and request carpooling and reduction of unnecessary travel.

Review scheduled events to identify those which will take place during predicted alert period which will involve strenuous* physical activity; and which may, therefore, need to be cancelled or curtailed, if a Stage I Alert is attained. Notify the athletic director and coaches so they can prepare to cancel or postpone athletic events if an episode is attained.

2. Stage I "Attained"

Cancel strenuous* physical activities. Individual participants in strenuous activities may request to be excused immediately upon attainment of a health advisory, rather than participating until the activity is actually halted. Notify sports officials.

Reduce all unnecessary auto travel. Request carpooling.

Air Pollution (continued)

Air Pollution Episodes and Required Responses (continued)

*Strenuous activities are defined as those, which involve physical exertion to a level, which will result in "mouth-breathing." In Stage I the following activities are generally permissible:

Archery	Arts/Crafts
Shuffleboard	Golf
Horseshoes	Shooting baskets
Swimming, noncompetitive	Softball, Basketball
Walking	

In Stage II and III:

Arts/Crafts
Slow Walking

3. Stage II "Predicted"

Prepare to cancel athletic activities and all physical activities more strenuous than slow walking. Request voluntary carpooling and reduce unnecessary automobile travel.

4. Stage II "Attained"

Advise all teachers that students with special health problems should follow specific precautions recommended by their physicians and to reduce activity and stay indoors as much as possible. Athletic and other outdoor events shall be postponed, cancelled or relocated if Stage II episode exists before they start. Events in progress when episodes are called should be temporarily halted until the episode has ended, if physical activity includes more than slow walking. Cancel all unnecessary vehicular traffic. Notify all staff and students to carpool.

5. Stage III "Predicted"

(Note: No Stage III episodes have yet occurred in Southern California.) Be aware that district schools will be closed the following day if the governor declares an air pollution disaster.

Air Pollution (continued)

Air Pollution Episodes and Required Responses (continued)

6. Stage III "Attained"

All outdoor activities will be cancelled. School will be cancelled following the governor declaring an air pollution disaster. Then only security and personnel required to provide essential public information service will work. Staffing practices in effect on national holidays will be observed at all sites.

Support Sources

The following support services and references will be useful in determining appropriate responses to pollution episodes:

1. A Handbook for Schools published by the South Coast Air Quality Management District. This manual provides:
 - (a) Additional information regarding specific types of pollution episodes which may be expected.
 - (b) The periods of the day and the year they may be expected.
 - (c) Approximate lengths of time they will last, as well as detailed information on the effects of pollution.
 - (d) Guidance regarding specific activities which need to be curtailed at various stages.
 - (e) Current approved criteria for each major pollutant.
2. The Orange County Transit District

Mr. John Reimer, phone 971-9460, can assist schools in developing carpooling arrangements for both students and staff. The OCTD can also provide information regarding bus schedules. Carpooling and use of buses in lieu of private autos are appropriate elements of an air pollution emergency plan.
3. Tape Recorded Air Quality Updates (24 hours a day)

Air Pollution (continued)

Air Pollution Episodes and Required Responses (continued)

Call 800-242-4022 to obtain up-to-date recorded information regarding attained and predicted air pollution episodes. These recordings will tell you how long the episodes are expected to last and the nature of the pollutants involved. This information will be helpful in making decisions regarding specific scheduled activities, which are being considered for cancellation. Information is announced by area. All district schools are in Area 18.

4. "Live" Air Quality Updates

Update information is available between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and later for late episodes. This number is (800) 242-4666.

5. General Information

Available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at (818) 572-6283. Information regarding the broadcast channel receivers is available from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday from (818) 572-6189.

6. Air Pollution Complaints

May be reported from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to (714) 991-7200. After 4:00 p.m., weekends, and holidays call (818) 572-6306.

7. Answers that cannot be found in either the Air Pollution Episodes Handbook or from any of the above sources should be referred to the Safety/Workers' Compensation Supervisor who will attempt to obtain the required information.

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