

YTAC

Yuma Tobacco Asthma Coalition

Wind Advisory Flag Program

What is the Wind Advisory Flag Program?

It is a nautical flag program implemented by the Tobacco Asthma Coalition with the support of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) that will provide a visual reminder to the public of prospective high wind days.

Why was the Wind Advisory Flag Program developed?

When wind blows, particulate matter such as dirt, soil dust, pollens, molds, ashes, soot, and aerosols can become airborne and remain suspended in the air. Very small, fine particulate matter easily gets inhaled deep into the lungs, aggravating respiratory problems such as asthma. Those at highest risk are the elderly, people with lung and heart disease, and children. By providing an advisory about prospective outdoor wind conditions, families and individuals, especially those with pulmonary issues, can take steps to reduce their exposure to help minimize or prevent negative health effects.

How will the public be notified of the wind forecast?

The program uses different colored flags to indicate health risk levels according to wind velocity. As ADEQ provides the three-day wind forecast, the appropriate flag will be raised in notification to the public.

What are the flag colors and what do they mean?

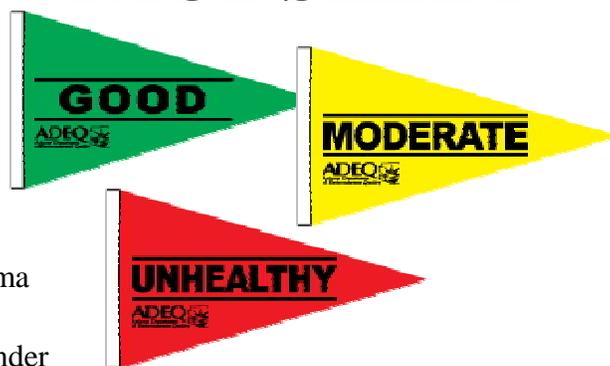
The flag colors are **Green**, **Yellow**, and **Red**.

A **Green** flag would indicate little or no wind, so health risk levels are low.

A **Yellow** flag would indicate more wind activity, a moderate risk level.

A **Red** flag would indicate strong wind activity, an unhealthy risk level.

FACT SHEET



Reduce your exposure to particulate matter...in the home, car and workplace

When wind velocity is high outdoors:

- Keep windows and doors closed.
- When air quality improves, open up and air out your home.
- Reduce indoor sources of particles. Activities such as burning candles and tobacco smoking greatly increase particle levels in a home.
- Wipe floors and hard surfaces with a damp mop or cloth that will retain the dust.

For people with heart or lung disease, asthma, and allergies:

- When wind velocity is high, limit or avoid time outdoors.
- Have adequate medication on hand.
- Be sure to follow your asthma management plan.

To check the Wind Advisory Three-Day Forecast for Yuma County go to the ADEQ website: www.azdeq.gov and click on Yuma Wind Forecast

Who Is YTAC?

Our Mission Statement

To improve the quality of life of those affected by Tobacco and Asthma (primarily children) through education and prevention as well as raising awareness about environmental conditions that pose health hazards through community collaboration.

Our Activities

Open Coalition meetings are held regularly and new members are invited to participate.

To increase community awareness about Tobacco, Asthma and related issues, especially those affecting children and people with chronic respiratory problems, we participate in community events, distribute health-related information, and provide trainings for professionals in the areas of Tobacco Dependence and Open Airways. In schools, our Coalition provides tobacco education and prevention as well as asthma self-management, promoting special campaigns and participating in school events in an effort to educate parents and children.

Special Projects

Wind Advisory Flag Program

YTAC has introduced to our community the **Wind Advisory Flag Program** that uses colored nautical flags to provide advisories about prospective outdoor wind conditions that can pose health risks especially to those with asthma and other chronic respiratory problems. Yuma County Public Health Services District is the Lead Agency for this project. **For more information, contact:**

Gloria Cisneros, Coalition Chairperson, Program Coordinator

2200 W. 28th Street, Yuma, Arizona 85364

(928)317-4580 / e-mail: gloria.cisneros@yumacountyaz.gov

Camp Not-A-Choo

This overnight camp provides an enjoyable and safe camp experience opportunity to Yuma County children ages 8-11 that have asthma and assists these children to learn ways to manage asthma symptoms so he/she can enjoy life. Camp Activities include Education Sessions, Horse Back Riding, Therapy Dogs, Camp Fire Program, Arts & Crafts and much more. Regional Center for Border Health, Inc. is the Lead Agency for this project. **For more information, contact:**

Oscar Franco

Regional Center for Border Health

214 W. Main Street, Somerton, Arizona 85350

(928) 627-9222

YTAC Members: Yuma County Public Health Services District • Regional Center for Border Health, Inc. • Alice Byrne School
• Sunset Community Health Center, Inc. • Somerton Middle School • Yuma Regional Medical Center • First Things First
• Arizona Department of Environmental Quality-Office of Children's Environmental Health • Health Choice Generations HMO
• San Luis Parks & Rec • Campesinos Sin Fronteras • Western Arizona Council of Governments Head Start • Child and Family Resources
• University of Arizona M. and E. Zuckerman College of Public Health • Chicanos Por La Causa Migrant Head Start