



Georgia's Clean Air Force: Air Pollution & Your Health

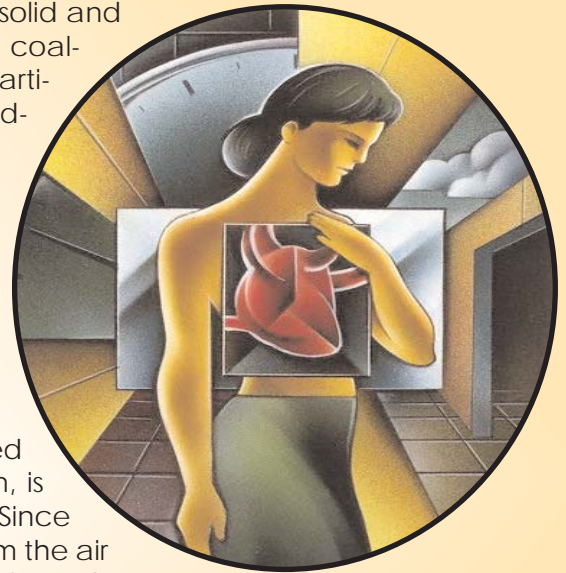
Air pollution is a serious public health and environmental issue in metro Atlanta.

Airborne particles, the main ingredient of haze, smoke, and dust, present serious air quality and health issues. These tiny particles, also referred to as particulate matter, can increase the risk of heart attack, stroke and other cardiovascular problems.

Particle pollution can occur year round and is composed of solid and liquid particles that are generated by wood burning fires, coal-burning power plants and vehicle emissions. Some of these particles are so small that they can get deep into a person's bloodstream, affecting both the lungs and heart.

Studies in several large cities predict 60,000 deaths each year are caused by particulate matter. Some research has estimated that people living in the most polluted U.S. cities could lose between 1.8 and 3.1 years because of exposure to chronic air pollution (Source: Pollution, Heart Disease and Stroke, www.americanheart.org).

Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF), the state's Enhanced Vehicle Emission Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program, is helping metro Atlanta reduce harmful vehicle emissions. Since 1996, GCAF has reduced tons of ozone-forming pollutants from the air we breathe. More than 1.5 million heavy-polluting vehicles have been identified and repaired.



Thanks in part to annual vehicle emission testing, we are beginning to experience measurable air quality benefits. There have been fewer unhealthy air days due to the large number of polluting vehicles that have been identified and repaired; preventing more than 4,700 tons of pollutants from entering our air. While these are great successes, there is still much more to be done. Georgia's Clean Air Force remains committed to working toward **better air quality and ultimately better heart health**.

For the 2010 testing season, all 1986-2007 model year gasoline powered cars and light trucks (with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 8,500 pounds or less) registered in the following counties require an emission inspection: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding, and Rockdale.

GCAF recommends having your vehicle tested four to six weeks prior to the registration renewal date (the vehicle owner's birthday), just in case you need time to have repairs made. The three most recent model year vehicles (whether purchased new or used) are exempt from emission inspections. An emission inspection is valid for 12 months or one registration renewal, by the same owner. Following the recommended vehicle maintenance schedule is the best way to pass the annual test and keep your vehicle running clean year-round.

Georgia's Clean Air Force...helping Georgia breathe a little easier.
For testing information, visit www.cleanairforce.com
or call 800.449.2471.