



# Your Resource

for Georgia's Vehicle Emissions Inspection & Maintenance (I/M) Program.

## 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 particle pollution or 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 they can get deep into a persons 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 estimates people living in the most polluted U.S. cities could lose between 1.8 and 3.1 years of their lives because of exposure to chronic air pollution (Source: Pollution, Heart Disease and Stroke, [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org)).

Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF), the state's Enhanced Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program, is helping metro Atlanta reduce harmful vehicle emissions. Since 1996, GCAF has reduced tons of particulate matter and ozone-forming pollutants from harming the air we breathe.

Thanks in part to annual vehicle emissions testing, we are beginning to experience measurable air quality improvements and the resulting benefits. There have been fewer unhealthy air days. A large number of polluting vehicles have been identified and repaired, preventing 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.

**Georgia's Clean Air Force...helping Georgia breathe a little easier.**