

Quick Take

What:

The Regional Smoking Vehicle Program informs residents their vehicle may be creating excessive smoke and emitting pollutants harmful to residents' health and the region's air quality.

Significance:

Ten Dallas-Fort Worth area counties are in violation of the federal government's ozone regulations and are working to meet the standard. RSVP is one program that allows residents to participate in the effort to improve air quality. It covers all 16 counties of the North Central Texas Council of Governments region.

By the Numbers:

Since 2007, 68 percent of smoking vehicle reports have been submitted online. Residents can report vehicles that produce excessive smoke for longer than 10 seconds by calling **817-704-2522** or visiting this website: **www.smokingvehicle.net**.

Regional Smoking Vehicle Program Gives Residents Hands-on Role in Clean Air

If you see a vehicle emitting excessive amounts of smoke from the tailpipe, you can do something about it and help the region breathe easier.

The Regional Smoking Vehicle Program, established in 2007, is one of many efforts aimed at improving air quality in Dallas-Fort Worth. Commonly known as RSVP, the program is designed to inform and help motorists when their vehicles emit excessive smoke and pollutants. It also allows North Texans to take an active role in helping the region comply with the federal ozone standard.

Ten Dallas-Fort Worth area counties (**Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant and Wise**) are in nonattainment for ozone and are working toward compliance with the federal standards.

As the transportation planning body for a region of more than 7 million people, North Central Texas Council of Governments is focused on improving the reliability of the transportation system and maintaining a good quality of life. Demographic forecasts suggest that by 2045, the region's population will surpass 11 million, making both transportation and air quality improvement essential.

RSVP covers all 16 counties in the region, which also includes Erath, Hood, Hunt, Navarro, Palo Pinto and Somervell.

You can anonymously report a smoking vehicle by calling **817-704-2522** or visiting **www.smokingvehicle.net**.



The Regional Smoking Vehicle Program helps North Texas notify motorists whose cars need emissions repairs.

FACTSheet

NCTCOG assumed responsibility of RSVP for North Texas counties from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in 2007. Since then, more than 40,000 reports of smoking vehicles have been received. Of these, approximately 68 percent have been reported online and about 25 percent have been received via phone. More than half of the reports have come from the core counties of Collin, Dallas, Denton and Tarrant.



While the phone is a viable option and can result in more accurate reports, it is important people practice good driving habits and refrain from reporting vehicles while behind the wheel.

Owners of vehicles suspected of emitting excessive pollutants are sent a letter explaining the time and location their vehicles were reported, possible causes of the incident and potential solutions.

Some motorists receiving letters might be eligible to receive financial assistance for vehicle repair or replacement through the AirCheckTexas Drive a Clean Machine Program.






AirCheckTexas helps North Texans who meet the income criteria by providing vouchers of up to \$600 to fix emission issues and up to \$3,500 to replace older vehicles. Income and vehicle requirements are available at www.airchecktexas.org.

Driving a vehicle with excessive smoke in Texas is a violation of the Texas Smoking Vehicle Statute. This statute defines a smoking vehicle as one that either emits smoke for 10 or more consecutive seconds or whose suspended smoke does not fully dissipate within 10 seconds.

Law enforcement agencies in Texas are permitted to issue citations of up to \$1,000 to drivers operating smoking vehicles on the roadway.

RSVP helps the region by identifying vehicles contributing to air quality issues, while providing individual owners opportunities to fix problems when they are first diagnosed. Visit www.mytxcar.com to make sure your inspection is valid.

Common Diagnoses for Visible Smoke:

-  *Incomplete fuel combustion*
-  *Engine oil being burned*
-  *Coolant in combustion chamber or incomplete air/fuel mixture*

This chart shows examples of what might be causing a vehicle to emit excess smoke.



North Central Texas Council of Governments

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