

GARFIELD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

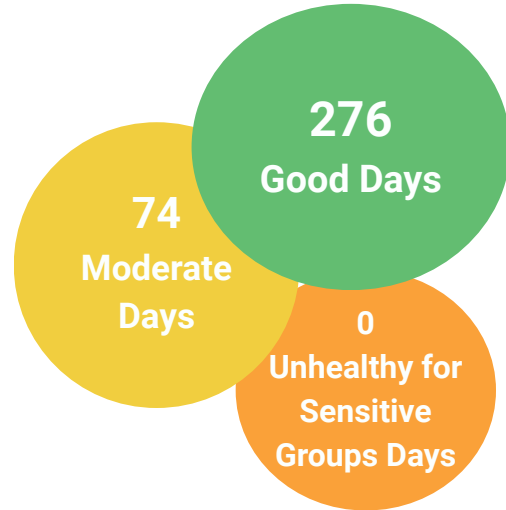
AIR QUALITY ANNUAL SNAPSHOT 2025

Monitoring Air Pollutants and Trends



OZONE (O₃)

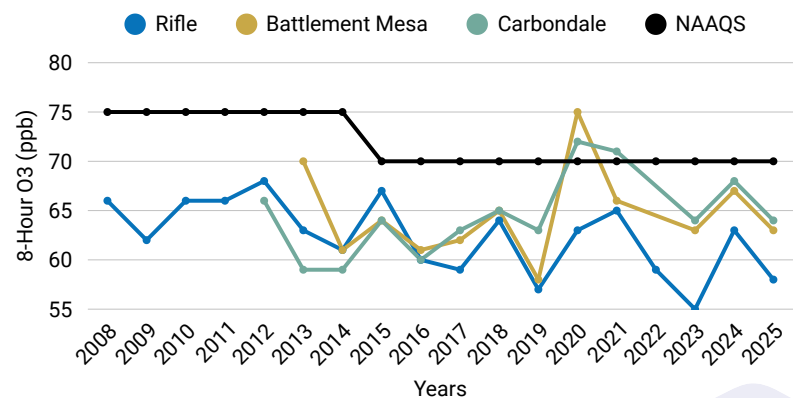
Ozone forms when pollutants emitted from vehicles and industrial sources react with sunlight. Ground-level ozone contributes to respiratory issues including difficulty breathing, coughing, and damage to lung tissue. It can aggravate chronic lung conditions like asthma and emphysema. Garfield County currently meets National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone. The number of days classified as "Good Days" according to the Air Quality Index (AQI) has increased from 271 to 276 days between 2024 and 2025.



What can you do to reduce ozone?

- Drive less - bike, walk, carpool, or take a bus
- Mow your lawn after 5 p.m., or get a push mower
- Fill up with gas in the evenings rather than during the day, and avoid "topping off" the tank

Ozone Annual Trends



MONITORING LOCATIONS



GARFIELD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

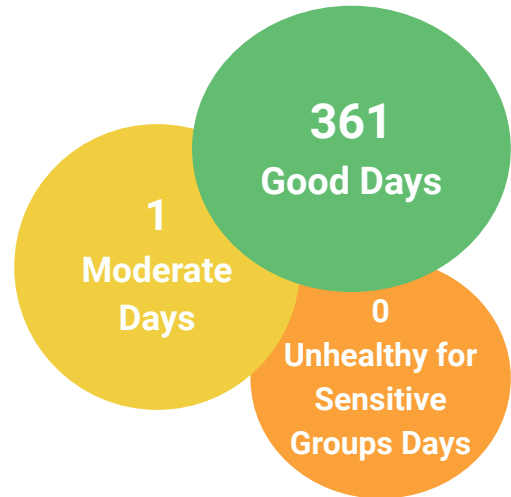
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Monitoring Air Pollutants and Trends

PARTICULATE MATTER (PM_{2.5})

PM_{2.5} (particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers) originates from smoke, vehicles and industrial sources and contributes to decreased visibility. Breathing high levels of fine particulate matter can have serious health impacts including coughing and difficulty breathing, decreased lung function, irregular heartbeat and aggravation of heart and lung disease. PM_{2.5} concentrations in Garfield County are lower than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The number of days classified as “Good Days” according to the Air Quality Index (AQI) has increased from 346 to 361 days between 2024 and 2025*.

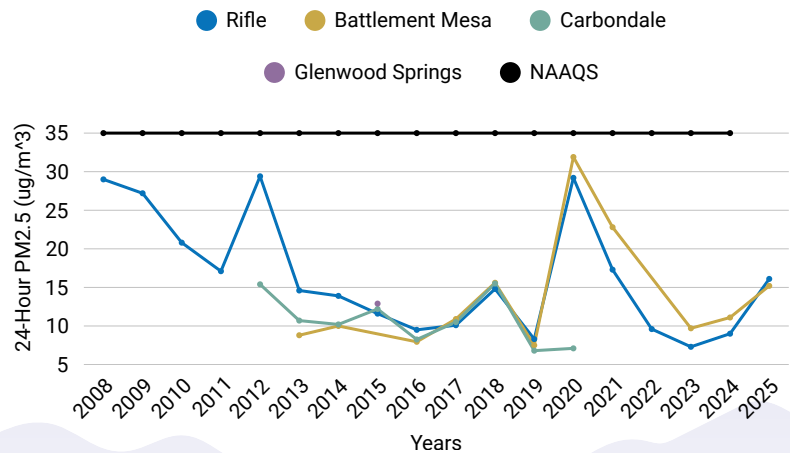


Note that some data were invalid, so a 24-hour average could not be calculated for every day.

What can you do to reduce PM?

- “Burn-wise” - use wood-burning stoves properly
- Limit vehicle idling
- Compost or mulch woody materials

Particulate Matter Annual Trends



MONITORING UPDATES

After pausing air quality monitoring at the Carbondale and Battlement Mesa sites in 2022, Garfield County resumed monitoring at these sites in 2023. In addition to monitoring for various gases (O₃, NO_x, THC/NMHC) and particulate matter, Garfield County has also resumed monitoring of 80 Speciated Non-Methane Organic Compounds (SNMOCs) beginning in April of 2023. Air quality monitoring also continued at the existing Rifle monitoring sites and throughout the transportation corridors in the county using Purple Air Sensors. Below are online resources available for the public to access real-time air quality and smoke conditions.

<https://airnow.gov>

<https://fire.airnow.gov/>

<https://map.purpleair.com>

<https://data.coloradoan.com/fires/>

<https://www.colorado.gov/airquality/default.aspx>



Garfield County

Public Health

195 West 14th Street
Rifle, CO 81650
(970) 625 5200