WHY SMOG IS BAD

OZONE, a gas that forms in the atmosphere when three oxygen atoms are combined through a series of chemical reactions triggered by sunlight, IS A MAJOR COMPONENT OF SMOG.

GOOD UP HIGH
‘THE OZONE LAYER’

There is a natural layer of ozone high in the atmosphere that is created and destroyed at a constant rate by sunlight.

BUT

BAD NEARBY
‘SMOG’

Ozone is also formed near the ground from chemical reactions between volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) in the presence of sunlight.

Ozone is responsible for ~10% of the warming that we are experiencing today.

Hot weather also speeds up reactions, creating more ozone.

Ozone and its precursors can be carried far distances by the wind.

Major sources of VOCs and NOx are motor vehicle exhaust, power plant emissions, natural gas operations, and chemical solvents.

SMOG POLLUTION IS UNHEALTHY AND DANGEROUS

- Irritates airways, causing burning sensation, coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, and lung infections
- Linked to asthma, premature mortality, heart failure, lung failure, and increased hospital and emergency room admissions

Even with the weak standards we have now, 4 in 10 people in the U.S. live in areas that exceed national standards for smog pollution.

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