Ozone

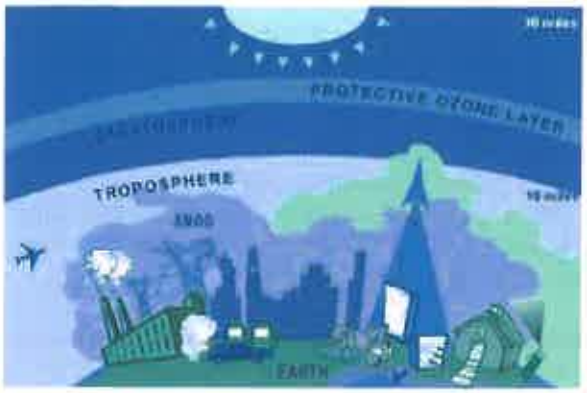
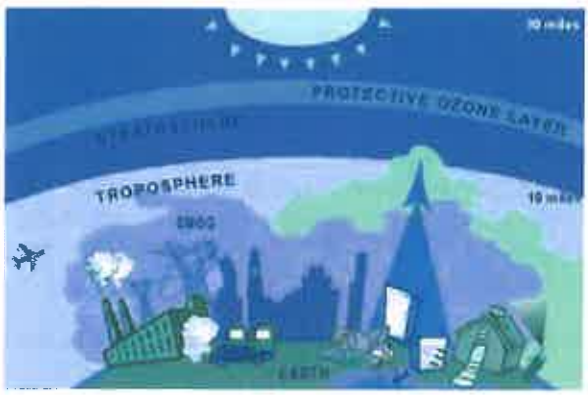


Photo Source: National Aeronautic and Space Administration

general info

06-0005-11

Ozone



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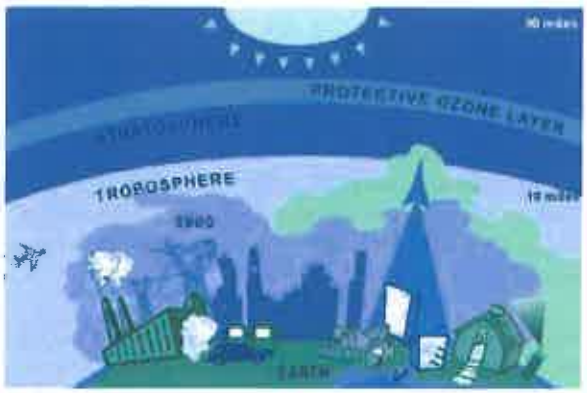

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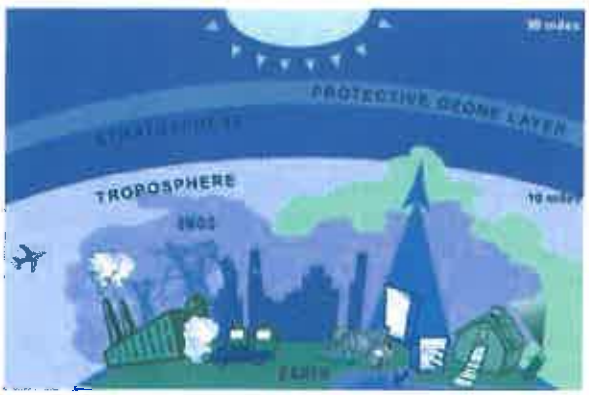

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Ozone

Ozone in the layer high above the Earth protects us from damaging radiation, but "ground-level" ozone, or smog, is harmful to humans, plants, animals and even buildings.

Ozone (O3), a molecule composed of three oxygen atoms, is formed mostly on summer days when intense sunshine provides the energy needing to trigger photochemical reactions in the atmosphere.

Vehicle emissions include the major ingredients for ozone formation -- volatile organic compounds (hydrocarbons) and oxides of nitrogen. In areas with ozone violations, CDOT air quality analysis considers emissions of the "precursor" pollutants.

Emissions that contribute to ozone formation also are produced by many other sources, including power plants, industry, dry cleaners, lawnmowers, household cleaners and paint.

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