



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### State-of-the-Art Camera Lets You “See” Invisible Pollution

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 8, 2018)** - You can't see them with the naked eye, but volatile organic compounds, known as VOCs, might be present in everyday items or tasks you might be doing like filling your gas tank, painting, mowing your yard or putting burgers on the grill. Those VOCs, when mixed with nitrogen oxide and sunshine, create ground-level ozone.

And while we need ozone in our upper atmosphere to protect us from the sun's harmful rays, down on the ground, it's a human health hazard.

“In Kentucky, ground-level ozone is mostly a summertime pollutant,” said Roberta Burnes, Policy Analyst III at the Kentucky Division of Air Quality (DAQ). “It's created by chemical reactions mainly between VOCs and nitrogen oxides on hot, sunny days.”

To cut down on harmful VOCs, the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet's Division for Air Quality recommends that you complete some everyday tasks such as painting, lawn mowing and grilling during the cooler times of the day during the summer months.

In a dramatic demonstration, the DAQ has used its Forward Looking Infrared Camera – or FLIR (pronounced “fleeer”) – to show these invisible VOCs that are released by spray paint, paint thinners, gasoline and other items. The video also explains why VOCs are harmful to our health.

A link to the video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/BgSSDDhaG0s>

“It is easy for each of us to help make a difference,” said Burnes. “Refuel your car after 6 P.M., mow as late in the day as possible, look for low VOC paints and replace the caps to paint thinners as soon as you can.”

News organizations, please feel free to link to, rip or otherwise use the video in this link <https://youtu.be/BgSSDDhaG0s> for your broadcasts and internet to learn more about ground-level ozone and what you can do to prevent it. For lower third purposes, Lanny Brannock is the host and reporter and Roberta Burnes is the interview. Both can be titled with the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection.

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