Super Sleuth Q & A

Directions: Answer each of the questions below by placing a letter from each column into the boxes above the letter columns. Each letter is used only once for each column. If you’re a super sleuth, the boxes will contain the correct answers to the questions!

1. How does ozone form?

2. Where do nitrogen oxides come from?
3. Where do VOCs come from?

4. What can I do about ozone pollution in my area?

5. What's the problem with ozone?
Solutions:

1. How does ozone form?

Ozone forms when sunlight causes nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) to react with oxygen.

2. Where do nitrogen oxides come from?

Nitrogen oxides are emitted from burning fossil fuels, such as coal and gasoline... even from burning wood and charcoal. Gas furnaces also give off nitrogen oxides.

3. Where do VOCs come from?

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) come from evaporation of: paints, cleaners, gasoline and "stinky" chemicals. Some sources, such as trees, are natural.

4. What can I do about ozone pollution in my area?

We can all do a lot! Drive less, use low VOC products (tell your parents!), fuel smart and use less energy.

5. What's the problem with ozone?

Stratospheric ozone (up there) protects us from UV light; but tropospheric ozone damages plants and causes breathing problems. Down here, ozone is unhealthy.