

OZONews

A weekly electronic news service on ozone protection & related issues compiled by:
UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme
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1- The SunWise School Program: An EMPACT Project

Day after day, as school bells echo through the hallways, millions of kids across the nation stream out of their classrooms and into sun-filled school yards, playgrounds, and sports fields. While this is a familiar childhood scene, it also is one that, without proper precautions, could endanger the health of students. Too much exposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can be harmful to anyone's health -- particularly that of a child.

In the atmosphere, the ozone layer forms a shield that protects the Earth from the sun's powerful UV radiation. Scientists have discovered, however, that the ozone layer is thinning and allowing more UV rays to reach the Earth's surface. Combined with current sun exposure behaviors, the thinning of the ozone layer may increase the chance of overexposure for adults and children. Too much exposure to UV radiation can cause serious health problems such as skin cancer, cataracts, and immune system suppression.

To promote sun-safe behavior at an early age, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed the **SunWise School Program**, a national environmental and health education program for grades K-8. Through the use of classroom, school, and community components, SunWise promotes sun safety by teaching children and their caregivers how to protect themselves from overexposure to UV radiation. The time commitment necessary to take part in SunWise is minimal, while the potential payoff is enormous!

Explore our website to learn about [ozone depletion <ozonelayer.html>](#), the [health effects of UV radiation <uvandhealth.html>](#) and easy [action steps <actionsteps.html>](#) to avoid overexposure to the sun. Discover EPA's exciting [SunWise School Program <overview.html>](#), and if you decide to participate, [register <join/index.html>](#) to join us.

Written by: EPA's [Stratospheric Protection Division <http://www.epa.gov/ozone/index.html>](#)

<http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/index.html> Last Updated: 12 April 2000

2- California Company's Clean Air Act Plea Includes \$1 Million Fine

Allied Refrigeration Inc., of Long Beach, Calif., pleaded guilty on May 24 to violating the Clean Air Act and to illegally smuggling ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) into the United States. As part of the plea, Allied has agreed to pay a \$1 million fine, \$100,000 of which will be directed to the Santa Monica National Recreational Area for use on environmental protection and preservation projects.

Allied participated in a scheme to smuggle 18,000 30-pound cylinders of CFCs into the United States between 1993 and 1995. The \$1 million fine represents the profits Allied made from reselling the smuggled CFCs. The principal smugglers in this scheme, Cowas Gustad Patel of San Dimas, Calif., and Bruce Burrell of Miami, Fla., have already been convicted and sentenced. The importation of CFCs into the United States is strictly regulated because the

