

Ozone envelops Mexico City for 24 hours

According to research conducted at the Pemex tower ozone levels continue at an altitude of 200 meters during the nights.

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Mexico City (March 31, 2006).- Ozone pollution in Mexico City unrelenting.

The reason being that it stays in the atmosphere 24 hours a day. During the night its levels decrease and it becomes the fuel for the generation of more ozone the next day, according to scientists from the MILAGRO project (Megacity Initiative: Local and Global Research Observations).

Part of the monitoring site of the MILAGRO Campaign at the Escandon district / Photo: Gabriel Jiménez

Previously, the general perception was that ozone pollution was a phenomenon that occurred exclusively during the daytime.

However, studies conducted by scientist Jochen Stutz from the University of California in Los Angeles indicate that by night ozone continues to be present at altitudes of 200 meters.

The specialist explained that he installed a mirror at the Pemex Tower at a height of 200 meters that receives a ray of light sent by a differential optical absorption spectrometer (DOAS) from a building located at Mexico City's Secretariat of the Environment.

He pointed out that upon the return of the ray to the DOAS the computer analyzes the pollutants detected within a range of 3 kilometers.

The environmental standard protecting the health of the population states that it is only tolerable to become exposed to high concentrations of ozone, 100 Imeca, for a period of one hour once a year.

But the inhabitants of the city breathe it at least for two hours a day during 220 days a year corresponding to an average of 120 Imeca, which is considered an unsatisfactory level.