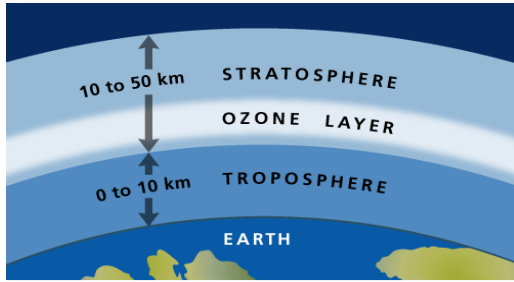


## Ozone Depletion



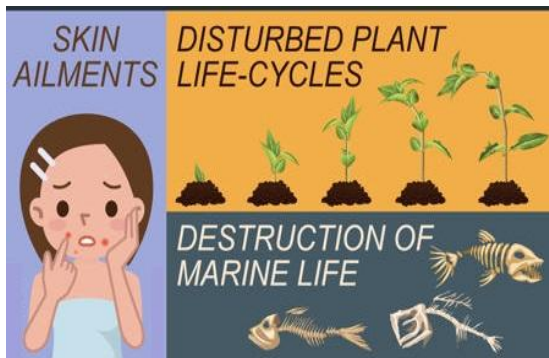
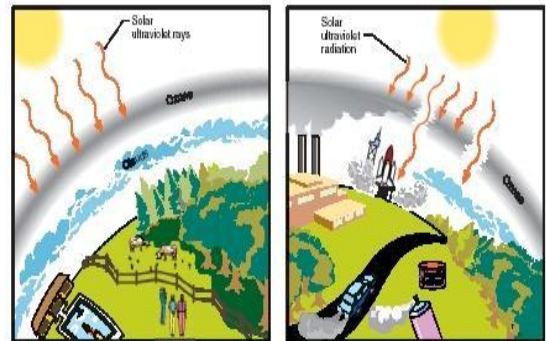
### *Ozone Layer Protection*

Ozone is a colorless gas made up of three Oxygen atoms ( $O_3$ ) located 10 – 50km in the earth's stratosphere. It is formed when Ultra Violet radiation strikes an oxygen molecule ( $O_2$ ) and splits it. The atomic oxygen then associates itself with another  $O_2$  molecule to form Ozone.

The Ozone Layer protects the earth from cell-damaging Ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

### *Destruction of the Ozone Layer*

Manmade chemicals such as Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and their blends containing Chlorine, Bromine or Fluorine atoms once released into the atmosphere destroys the Ozone Layer. These gases, through several chemical reactions, causes the ozone molecules to break down, reducing ozone's UV radiation-absorbing capacity. These Chemicals are found in items such as refrigerators, air-conditions (mobile and stationary), and Fire extinguishers just to name a few.



### *Effects of Ozone Layer Depletion*

Protecting the ozone layer is essential since the UV radiation from the Sun can cause a variety of human health problems, including skin cancers, eye cataracts, and a reduction in the body's immunity to disease. Furthermore, ultraviolet radiation can be damaging to the basis of the world's food chain, while a loss of ozone in the stratosphere may even affect the global climate.

### *Protecting yourself from harmful UV radiation*

UV radiation is at its highest between the hours of 10am – 4pm. If you are going to be outside for a period of time between these hours you can protect yourself;



1. Wear a broad brimmed hat, this will reduce UV-B exposure to the eyes by up to 50%, or use an umbrella.

2. Wear sun glasses that provide at least 98% UV-B protection.



3. Use sunscreen or sun block with SPF 15 or greater to protect the skin from over exposure to UV-B rays. Reapply regularly especially when exposed to the sun for long periods.



4. Wear clothing that minimizes exposure to the sun such as long sleeved shirts or blouse, long pants and skirts.

### ***Preserving the Ozone Layer***

Each of us can play a part to protect the Ozone layer by:

- ✓ Have a trained technician retrofit any equipment/s that contain CFCs, HCFCs or ODS and their blends.
- ✓ Have a technician trained in “Good Practices” service your appliances.
- ✓ Importers should import ONLY ozone and climate friendly substances.
- ✓ Merchants and retailers should import ozone friendly appliances and equipments for resale.
- ✓ Custom Officers should demonstrate vigilance at the ports of entry, ensuring all refrigerants and equipments are permitted in the country.
- ✓ Look for NO-CFC/NO HCFC labels when purchasing appliances