



Christine Keith/The Arizona Republic

Chet Spicer (left) and A.J. Savage check atmospheric conditions from the Bank One Center.

# OZONE Scientists study pollution

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tually no ozone in the air outside the 16th floor. But up on the 39th floor, at about 460 feet, ozone levels are markedly higher. Understanding this discrepancy and finding where the higher-level ozone comes from are two of the study's goals.

As part of the study, Jochen Stutz of the University of Cali-

fornia at Los Angeles shot a beam of light from the bank's 39th floor to the north up Central Avenue to receptors on the tops of three buildings, measuring levels of various pollutants.

Arizona State University students floated the orange balloons at about 1,000 feet to measure levels of ozone and fine dust particles. And a Gulf-stream jet circled the city, get-

ting readings from 2,000 feet.

Although the highest ozone readings tend to be in the northeast and southeast Valley, scientists gather data from the central city because that's where the densest ozone-forming emissions are.

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Photos by Christine Keith/The Arizona Republic

UCLA professor Jochen Stutz measures gases involved in ozone formation with a differential optical absorption spectrometer from the 39th floor of the Bank One Center.

# Scientists research Valley ozone levels

## Team documents pollution over city

By Mary Jo Pitzl  
The Arizona Republic

From the roof of the Bank One high-rise in downtown Phoenix to the end of a fluorescent-orange balloon tethered to the state fairgrounds, a national research team has been testing the Valley's nighttime air.

The group hopes to understand what happens before sunrise that contributes to ozone formation and eventually to cut down on the summertime pollutant.

"So much of what happens down where you're breathing is affected by what's happening above," said Chet Spicer, a senior research leader with the Battelle National Laboratory in Columbus, Ohio.

The month of research in Phoenix wraps up today, but experiments will continue over the next few years before conclusions are published.

Spicer's station on the 16th floor of the Bank One tower, about 200 feet above ground level, coincides with the top of the inversion layer that traps ozone and other pollutants overnight.

At midnight, Spicer learned, there is vir-



Monica Reed uses a balloon to gather ozone and weather data from the air over Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix.