AMBIENT AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES AND EXCEEDANCES



Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives (AAAQO) are established by the Government of Alberta, under the Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.

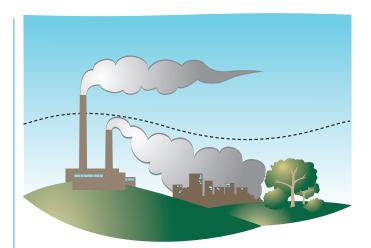
Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) works with a variety of stakeholders, including other government departments, the scientific community, environmental organizations, industry and the general public to develop and review objectives. AAAQOs provide environmental and human health protection to an extent technically and economically feasible, as well as consider what is socially and politically acceptable. AAAQOs are set well below what are considered emergency levels.

The AAAQOs are compared to actual air quality measurements to:

- · Assess regional cumulative effects.
- Establish approval conditions for regulated industrial facilities.
- Evaluate proposals for constructing facilities.
- Guide special ambient air quality surveys.
- Inform Albertans on air quality through an air quality health index.
- Report on the state of Alberta's atmospheric environment.

Fort Air Partnership (FAP) is responsible for monitoring and reporting on ambient air quality in this region. On the back page is a flow chart of what occurs when

FAP records an exceedance of an AAAQO. FAP reports all exceedances to the provincial government as per reporting protocols. It is the responsibility of government to determine whether there is a need to issue an air quality advisory for the public.



It is important to note that AAAQO exceedances do not necessarily mean there is an environmental or air quality emergency. In rare cases when an air quality emergency does occur, there are mechanisms in place to alert local residents. These include:

- NRCAER Update line. It provides updates on irregular industrial activity (1-866-653-9959).
- Municipal emergency alert systems (specific to each municipality).
- Air quality statements and alerts by Alberta Health and Alberta Environment and Parks, posted on-line and through the media.

If you have a concern about air quality in your area you can call AEP's 24-hour Environmental Hotline at 1-800-222-6514.



AAAQO Exceedance Reporting Flow Chart

FAP monitoring station sends an automatic alert of an exceedance of an Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objective to FAP staff.

FAP staff check to confirm the exceedance is genuine and not an equipment or computer error.

FAP staff report the exceedance to Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) as per Government of Alberta requirements.

AEP provides FAP with a reference number. A letter is sent to AEP from FAP within seven days explaining the likely cause of the exceedance.

FAP logs all exceedances and publishes quarterly and annual summaries.

AEP and Alberta Health Services (AHS) monitor FAP's incoming hourly average data and are automatically alerted of any exceedances each hour (during office hours).

AHS decides whether to issue an air quality health advisory for the region. AHS is predominantly interested in regional events (e.g. large scale impacts from a forest fire) and parameters that impact the Air Quality Health Index (particulate matter, ozone and nitrogen dioxide).

If an air quality advisory is issued by AHS, FAP shares this information through its various communications channels.

AEP tracks all
exceedances and
if there is a
recurring issue
they may take
management action.

