

# The Air You Breathe

Free Quarterly Newsletter from Akron Regional Air Quality Management District  
February 2018



## Polluted Air May Pollute Our Morality

Excerpted from *Association for Psychological Science*

Exposure to air pollution, even *imagining* exposure to air pollution, may lead to unethical behavior, according to findings published in *Psychological Science*. A combination of archival and experimental studies back this up. The experimental findings suggest that this association may be due, at least in part, to increased anxiety.

Previous studies have indicated that exposure to air pollution elevates individuals' feelings of anxiety. Anxiety is known to correlate with a range of unethical behaviors. Study author Lu and colleagues suggest that pollution may increase criminal activity and unethical behavior by increasing anxiety.

The researchers found that cities with higher levels of air pollution also tended to have higher levels of crime. This association held even after the researcher accounted for other potential factors including total population, number of law enforcement employees, median age, gender distribution, race distribution, poverty rate, unemployment rate, etc.

In one experiment, 256 participants saw a photo featuring either a polluted scene or a clean scene. They imagined living in that location and reflected on how they would feel as they walked around and breathed the air. On a subsequent and supposedly unrelated task they had the chance to earn cash by making correct word associations. They were informed that a glitch would allow them to see the correct answer if they hovered the mouse over a certain spot. The results showed that participants who thought about living in a polluted area cheated more often than those who thought about living in a clean area.

"Our findings suggest that air pollution not only corrupts people's health, but also can contaminate their morality," Lu concludes. Read more at: <http://www.psychologicalscience.org/news/releases/polluted-air-may-pollute-our-morality.html>.

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### Get Digital!

This new format newsletter looks **GREAT** in color. Can't see it in color? Still getting a paper copy?

It's time to **GET DIGITAL!**

Our emailed version is the way to go. You can share the newsletter with your entire organization or friends to help them stay air aware with a few clicks of a mouse.

Send an email to [dmeyers@schd.org](mailto:dmeyers@schd.org) to get started. Let us know what name/business the paper copy is currently mailed to and we'll remove that address from our paper mailing!

Help us reach our goal to cut paper distribution in **HALF** by 2019!

### Note to Oil & Gas

#### REMINDER:

If your facilities, including compressor stations, are subject to New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) you are likely required to be performing Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR.)

Questions? Contact our office for clarification. 330.375.2480

# Once In Always In...Or Maybe Not

Recent memorandum from US EPA discusses changes to this regulatory concept.

The Clean Air Act of 1990 defines a “major source” as a one that emits, or has the potential to emit, 10 tons per year of any hazardous air pollutant, or 25 tons per year or more of any combination of hazardous air pollutants. Sources with emissions below this threshold are classified as “area sources.” Different control standards apply to the source depending on whether or not it is classified as a “major source” or an “area source.”

In a 1995 memo, US EPA established a “once in always in” policy that determined that any facility subject to major source standards would always remain subject to those standards, even if production processes changed or controls were implemented that eliminated or permanently reduced that facility’s potential to emit hazardous air pollutants.

On January 25, 2018, US EPA issued a guidance memorandum withdrawing the “once in always in” policy for the classification of major sources of hazardous air pollutants under section 112 of the Clean Air Act. With the new guidance, sources of hazardous air pollutants previously classified as “major sources” may be reclassified as “area” sources at any time, provided the facility limits its potential to emit below major source thresholds.

Effective February 8, 2018, US EPA has published this guidance as a Federal Register Notice. Follow this [hyperlink](#) to see the notice.

In response, Ohio EPA has removed Engineering Guide #67 which was a guidance document that previously provided guidance on how US EPA’s “once in always In” policy affects the applicability of Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) standards to a facility and the requirements that the facility obtain a Title V permit.

Call our office to find out if this impacts your facility.

## Major Asbestos Program Changes

Starting with the 2018 Ohio Budget bill that passed in mid 2017 change has been the only constant in the world of asbestos regulation! Various aspects have been overseen by Ohio Department of Health (ODH) while other components were the responsibility of Ohio EPA. The budget required that ALL aspects of asbestos regulation would transition to Ohio EPA. And, the planning, software development, staff relocation, training and outreach began in earnest in Columbus.

The stated purpose for this change was to streamline the process and make it more “user friendly” for contractors. Once all the changes have been implemented, this process really should be easier for contractors. But change can be a little rocky. Patience is the name of the game right now!

ARAQMD is no longer the starting point for notifications, but our inspectors are the ones who you will interact with on site. Our inspectors have been trained in the regulatory role that once belonged to ODH.

If you have questions about the new process our suggestion is that you go straight to the folks in Columbus. You can contact them at: (phone) 614.466.0061 or (email) [asbestos@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:asbestos@epa.ohio.gov).



## Winter Indoor Air Quality Tips

This is the time of year that people living in northern climates tend to batten down the hatches and settle in for a lengthy season *indoors*. Cold, snowy weather keeps our doors & windows shut and keeps us from spending nearly as much time outdoors. So, being mindful of our indoor air quality (IAQ) during these months can help us all breathe a little easier.

Here are a few tips that can improve winter time IAQ.

### 1. Furnace Maintenance

Before heating season begins, it’s a good idea to have your furnace professionally serviced to make sure everything is working properly. A poorly maintained gas furnace is a risk for carbon monoxide issues!! And, replacing filters on schedule will help reduce dust particles throughout the year!

### 2. Chemical Cleaners

Grabbing a spray bottle to clean may not be your best choice. Research non-toxic cleaning options and reduce the chemicals floating in your home’s air.

### 3. Humidity Control

Running our furnaces in tandem with cold/dry outside air can lead to super low humidity in a home. Look for ways to mildly increase humidity inside to ease your sinuses.

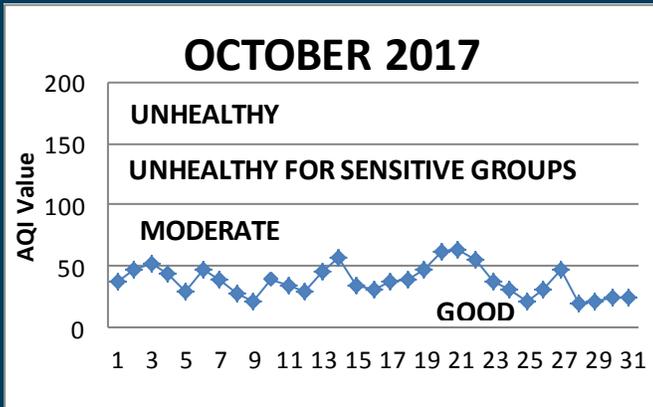
### 4. Eliminate Tobacco Smoke

OK, so this is a year round tip. But, seriously, take those smokes outside. Your non-smoking family (and pets!!) will breathe a LOT

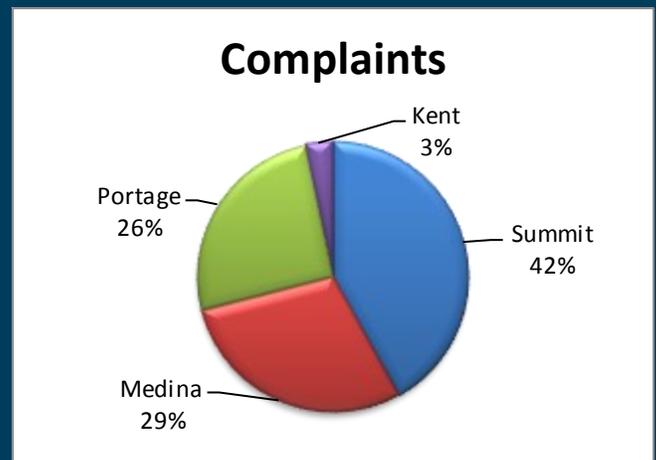
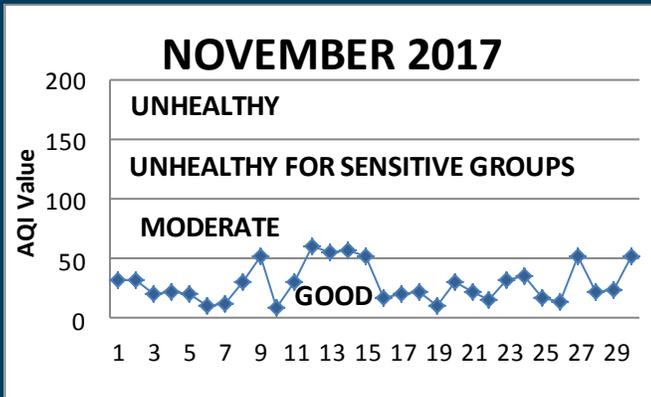
# AQ by the Numbers: Fourth Quarter 2017

## Air Quality Index

## Complaints & Inspections



Area/ Health District	Commercial/ Industrial	Residential	Total
Summit County	2	11	13
Medina County	4	5	9
Portage County	1	7	8
Kent	1	0	1



Site Visits	4th Quarter 2017
FEPTIO	12
Title V	5
Non Title V	16
GDF	0
Full Compliance Evaluations	6

## Additional Stats

Permits Issued							
4th Quarter	PTI		PTIO		TV		PBR
	Draft	Final	Draft	Final	Draft**	Final	Total
4th Q 2017	0	2	3	17	0	4	6

Asbestos	
4th Q—Notifications	85
4th Q—Inspections	58



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A service of Summit County Public Health

## Staffing Changes = End to Technical Assistance Program

We recently said goodbye to two staff members and that was one too many for our office to be able to continue the Compliance and Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) that we launched in the 1st quarter of 2017. Our goal was to provide even more hands on help for the companies in our area to help ensure everyone was operating within legal requirements.

Paul Kohler was transferred to a different program at Summit County Public Health, the larger agency ARAQMD is housed within. His inspection expertise is now focused on food safety for the citizens of Summit County. We miss having him on our team, but are fortunate to see him every day.

Megan Talcott, THE staff member responsible for making CTAP happen, has taken a new position that is closer to home (less car time = less air emissions!!) and will be a great step in her career. We sent her off right after the new year with a farewell lunch. We miss her, but know she's going to be a great addition at her new place of employment.

Because of these changes, we are left without enough staff members to shift someone into the CTAP role. We will be referring any business in our service area to Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention for technical assistance. You can find them at: <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/ComplianceAssistanceandPollutionPrevention.aspx>.