



The Air You Breathe

A free quarterly newsletter from Akron Regional Air Quality Management District.

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SUMMER 2016

Annual Invoices

ARAQMD has adjusted the time of year when annual invoices will be mailed out starting with 2016.

Invoices will be mailed on July 1st and have the same 45 day due date as usual.

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It's About Public Health

When I first started working with ARAQMD over 15 years ago, I came in with the mindset that you provide people information to help them make the most healthful decisions for themselves and their family. Seemed easy. I would go to conferences and meet other outreach folks who struggled to know how to talk to their directors about *why* outreach was an important piece of the air regulatory world. If your focus is routinely on regulating, outreach to the non-regulated community may seem unimportant.

But, when you see your agency as a part of *Public Health*, the communication piece seems obvious. Public Health is defined as: *"the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private, communities and individuals." It is concerned with threats to health based on population health analysis. The population in question can be as small as a handful of people, or as large as all the inhabitants of several continents (Wikipedia).*

Working to promote cleaner air is **totally** public health. Often times we think of vaccinations or well child services, and maybe even restaurant inspections as public health, but environmental regulations may seem a bit removed. I think it's the phrase "environmental health" that misleads folks. But, when you boil it down, if you have a polluted environment, the public's health will suffer.

A recent article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, details an encounter with US EPA Administrator, Gina McCarthy. In the interview, she relates her early career in public health to her current status as environmental protector. She discussed seeing people with asthma and recognizing they not only needed access to health care, but access to clean air!

McCarthy is further quoted in the article saying the EPA is *"primarily a public health agency. That is our mission."* Discussing the origin of the EPA 45 years ago, McCarthy is quoted as saying, *"environmental pollution was extraordinarily visible, in terms of black smoke pouring out of every smokestack. You had rivers that were burning, the Love Canals of the world. . . . We recognized very directly that environmental pollution was making people sick."*



ARAQMD's own origin is one of public health concern. The

Akron Smoke Control program, developed in the 1940s, would eventually be enveloped into the Akron Health Department and expand it's reach to impact the public health of Medina, Summit and Portage counties. If you look at local air agencies throughout the state of Ohio, you find many of them are part of the local health department, much like we are now part of Summit County Public Health.

Everyone has to breathe. Everyone wants to breathe the healthiest air possible. Air pollutants will effect the health of all who breathe them to one degree or another. As an air quality agency, we are proud that we make a positive impact to the public's health every day. Clean air IS public health!

State of the Air 2016

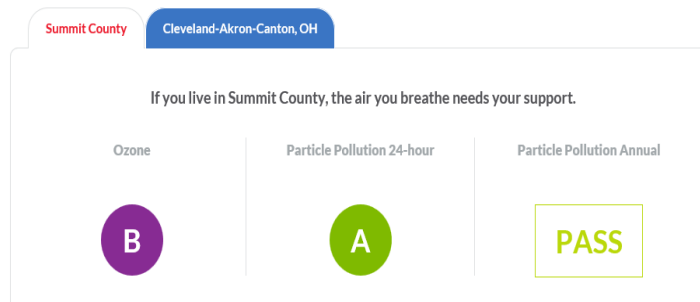
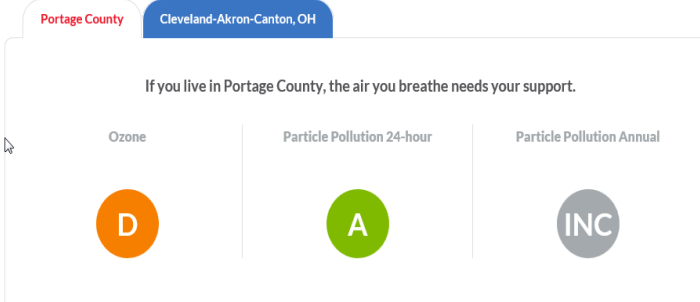
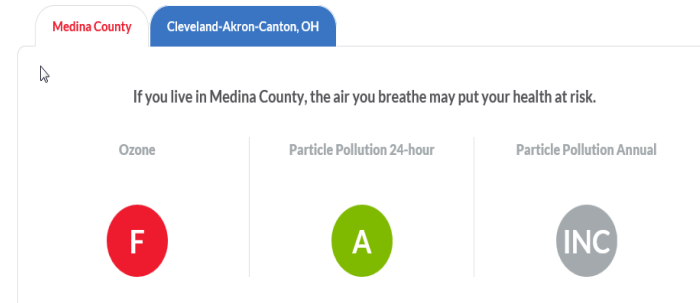
Every year the American Lung Association releases their report on the air quality around the nation.

This year's report, considering the new 70ppb ozone standard, indicates that 166 million people in the US live in counties where unhealthy levels of air pollution (either fine particle pollution or ozone) may occur. This is a rise over the 139 million from the previous years' report, but the stricter standard means more area is now considered to be not in compliance.

A recent *Greenwire* article noted that 16 of the 25 worst sites around the country for year round particle pollution actually showed their lowest levels in the 17 years that ALA has been compiling the State of the Air reports. Progress is being made, but as we learn more about the health impacts of pollutants and thusly make the standards more strict (promoting cleaner air), the appearance of more people being at risk may grow.

Paul Billings, the ALA's senior vice president for advocacy is quoted in *Greenwire* as saying, "What this tells us is that the Clean Air Act is working."

So what did the report say about our three county service area? Check out the graphs below.



While Medina County appears to have really bad ozone issues, it may help to have this put in perspective. Riverside County California also received an "F" for having 262 "Orange" level and 106 "Red" level days over a 3 year period! Medina County on the other hand had 11 "Orange" and one "Red" level days in the same 3 year period. And, those 12 days actually represent **26.1 fewer** days than when data was gathered starting in 1996! Our air quality is, in fact, improving!!

Additionally, all 3 counties received high marks in regards to particle pollution.

These reports, when only looked at on the surface, don't always tell a complete story. In our 3 county region, the story is one of improvement and cleaner air for all who live, work and recreate here! To get weekday

updates on our air quality, like us on Facebook or check out our website: www.araqmd.org/aqi.html.

For weekday Air Quality Index updates and links to timely articles & info. like us,

AKRON REGIONAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT on Facebook!



Join our growing group of followers!

Statistic Snap Shot

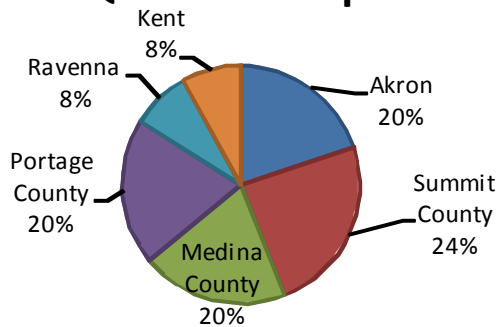
4th Quarter 2015 Complaints

1st Quarter 2016 Complaints

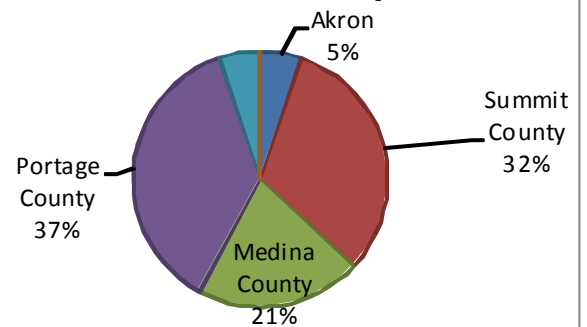
Area	Commercial/Industrial	Residential	Total
Akron	3	2	5
Summit County	5	1	6
Medina County	2	3	5
Portage County	0	5	5
Ravenna	2	0	2
Kent	1	1	2

Area	Commercial/Industrial	Residential	Total
Akron	0	1	1
Summit County	3	3	6
Medina County	0	4	4
Portage County	1	6	7
Ravenna	1	0	1
Kent	0	0	0

4th Quarter Complaints



1st Quarter Complaints



Site Visits	4th Quarter 2015
FEPTIO	4
Title V	6
Non Title V	23
GDF	17
Full Compliance Evaluations	4

Site Visits	1st Quarter 2016
FEPTIO	2
Title V	6
Non Title V	12
GDF	2
Full Compliance Evaluations	3

Permits Issued

Quarter	PTI		PTIO		TV		PBR Total
	Draft	Final	Draft	Final	Draft**	Final	
**Includes PPP & PP 4th 2015	0	4	8	20	11	1	27
1st 2016	0	4	3	20	9	3	12

Asbestos

4th Q—Notifications	216
4th Q—Inspections	53
1st Q—Notifications	198
1st Q—Inspections	74

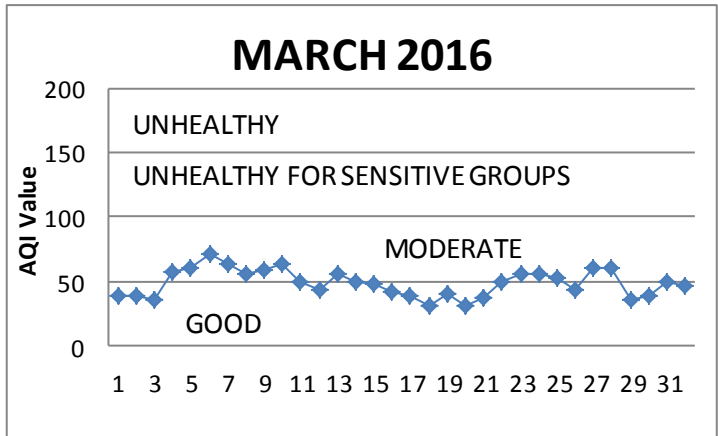
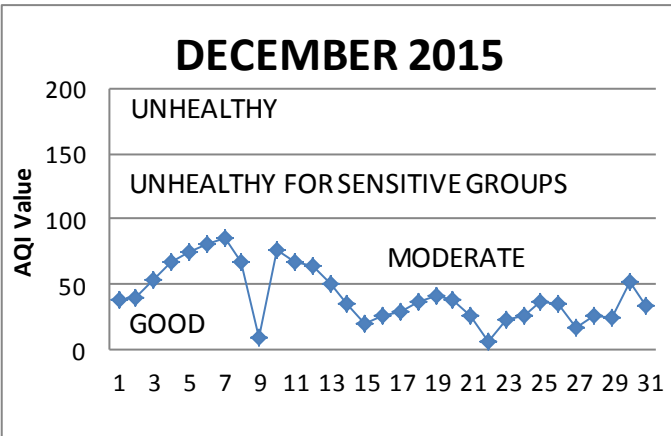
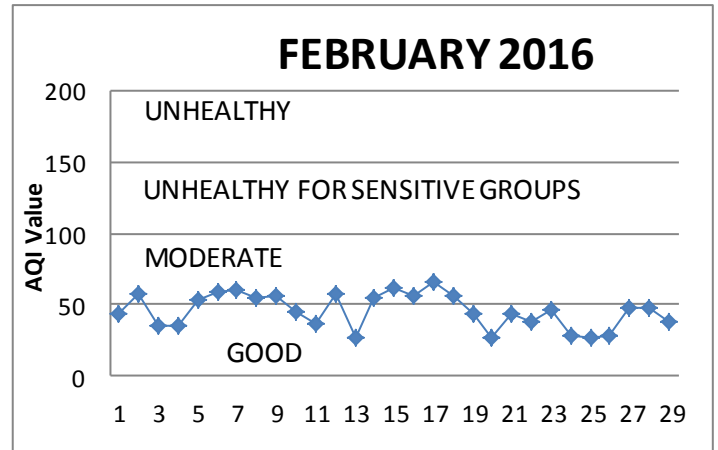
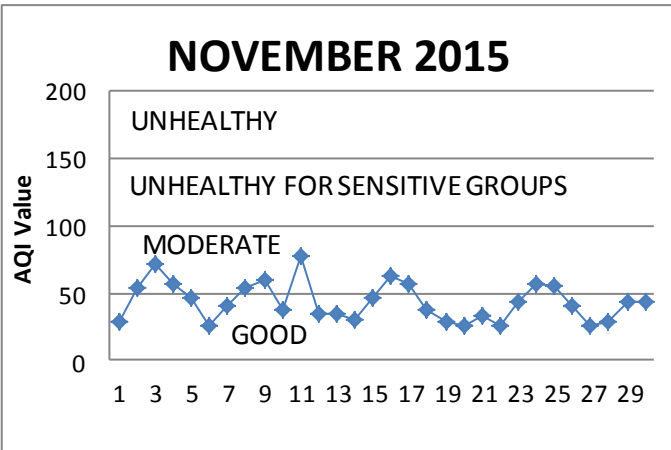
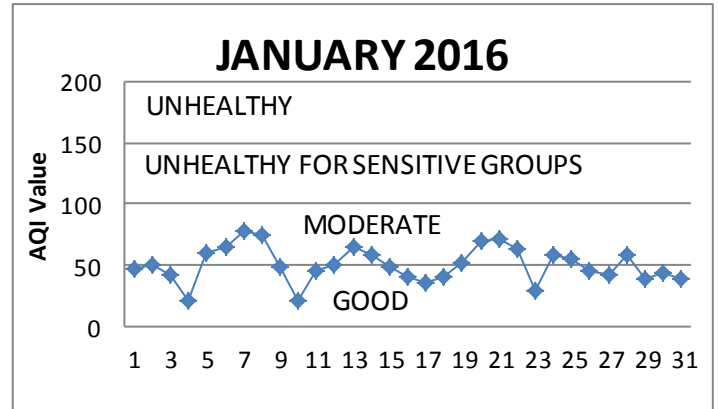
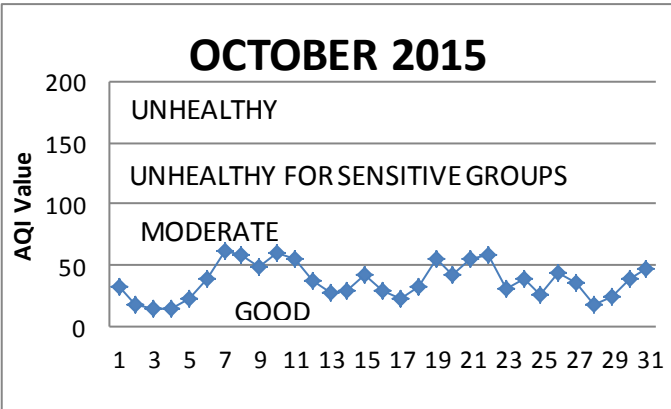
Indoor Air Quality Inquiries

4th Q—23
1st Q—20

Statistic Snap Shot

4th Quarter 2015 Daily AQI

1st Quarter 2016 Daily AQI



Indoor Air Quality and Climate Change

Excerpts from: **Indoor Air Quality May Suffer With Climate Change**

By, *Umair Irfan, E&E reporter*

As the planet warms, homes and offices may still leave people vulnerable to bad air, researchers warn. With air conditioning and heating, people around the world are spending more of their time in the great indoors. Americans can spend upward of 90 percent of their time inside.

Time spent indoors is also increasing rapidly in many countries in warmer parts of the world, where shelter from extreme heat can save lives. As heat waves increase in intensity and frequency, better indoor environments could mitigate some of the harm from the warming planet. But going behind closed doors doesn't mean a person is out of the woods; the air one breathes inside could still cause damage, and climate change could make it worse.

"Outdoor air pollution is dominated by toxic fumes from combustion sources such as exhaust emissions, while the indoor air is affected by a number of sources such as cooking, heating, chemicals from candles, cleaners and toxins from building materials," said Prashant Kumar, a researcher in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom, in an email. "Inadequate ventilation leads to buildup of these emissions to degrade the indoor air quality."

According to U.S. EPA, air pollutants can be two to five times more concentrated indoors than outdoors, with extreme conditions making indoor air 100 times worse.

In 2011, the Institute of Medicine at the National Academies published a report on the effects of climate change on the indoor environment, finding that some of the pollution associated with warming like ozone and pollen can make it inside your home or office.

One of the key strategies for fighting climate change, making buildings more efficient, could impair air quality as well if not done correctly.

Buildings in the United States account for 40 percent of the country's greenhouse gas emissions, and most will continue standing for decades. Upgrading these structures with better insulation, lighting and windows to use less water and energy will be an essential part in the fight against climate change. However, making buildings more airtight without ensuring proper ventilation could harm human health.

"These improvements have led on the one hand to more comfortable houses and offices with lower running costs, but on the other hand, they have resulted in indoor environments in which air pollutants can be readily produced and build up to much higher concentrations than those found in the atmospheric environment," Kumar said.

Some simple fixes can improve indoor air.

"Generally speaking, you want windows that open, but you want to control where the air is coming from," said Vivian Loftness, a professor of architecture at Carnegie Mellon University and a co-author of the National Academies report on indoor air and climate change.

"The reason I'm a big proponent of keeping windows operable is that we can increase the air exchange rate," she added, noting that better air quality improves productivity in offices.

However, as the climate changes, architects and engineers will have to work harder to keep their buildings safe, comfortable and efficient. Loftness observed that buildings are often designed around fixed weather patterns, so walls and moisture insulation may experience greater stresses as temperatures go up, leading to more water intrusion and mold contamination.

"Climate change is making it really hard," Loftness said. "We do really need to plan for warmer temperatures."



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AQ Advisory alerts & links to
informative AQ articles!

Air Quality Awareness Week

May 2nd-6th was Air Quality Awareness Week and ARAQMD celebrated by providing air quality information to folks around the three counties.

Our focus this year was on indoor air quality. A recent survey conducted by Summit County Public Health's Environmental Health division produced results that many respondents didn't really understand their risks associated with various indoor air pollutants. Based on these results, we decided to take the opportunity offered through AQ Awareness week to provide information on five different indoor air quality. Those topics were: mold, radon, secondhand smoke, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds.

Our office receives lots of calls from people concerned about exposure to mold. So, we knew that would be a topic of interest. We also know the other four topics are very important and if not understood, can raise concerns for indoor air quality.

We had bags produced and filled them with tip

sheets and booklets on the five topics. We also included a retractable ink pen with a cool stylus feature!

Bags were distributed throughout the 3 counties by the following organizations:

Medina County:

- Medina County Earth Day Festival
- Medina County Health Department

Summit County:

- Akron-Summit County Public Library
 - Green, Kenmore, Highland Square, Tallmadge & Norton branches
- Barberton Library
- Summit County Public Health—WIC
- Akron Children's Hospital

Portage County:

- UH Portage Medical Center
- Portage County WIC



To check out the tip sheets, head to our website, www.araqmd.org and click on the AQ Awareness Week link!