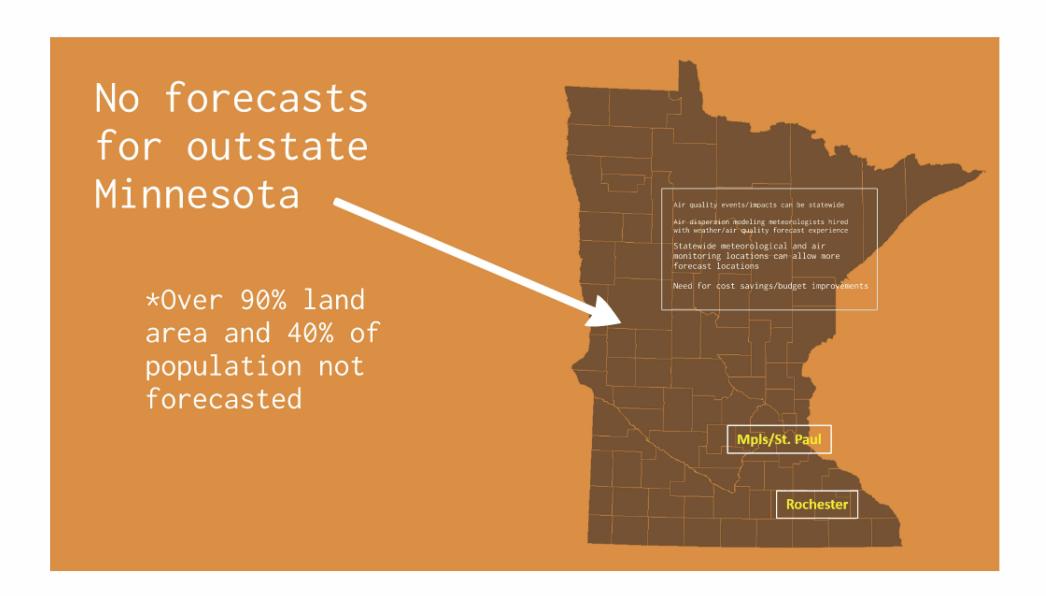


Air Quality Forecasts in Minnesota

Forecasting contract with vendor: 2008

Two locations:
Minneapolis/St. Paul (Twin Cities)
Rochester

*No other outstate locations due to cost, etc.



Air quality events/impacts can be statewide

Air dispersion modeling meteorologists hired with weather/air quality forecast experience

Statewide meteorological and air monitoring locations can allow more forecast locations

Need for cost savings/budget improvements

Air Pollution Health Advisories and Alerts

Text-only products with limited specific details in area covered or start/end times (issued by MPCA)

Focus too Twin Cities-centric even during wildfire smoke events

Reactive vs proactive in most cases

Confusion by public and internally of advisory vs alert

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has issued an air pollution health advisory for the Ninnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has issued an air pollution health advisory for the North Agency (MPCA) has issued an air pollution health advisory for the North Agency (MPCA) has issued an air pollution health advisory for the North Agency (MPCA) has issued an air pollution health advisory for the North Agency (MPCA) has issued an air pollution health advisory for the North Agency (MPCA) has issued an air pollution health advisory for the North Agency (MPCA) has issued an air pollution health advisory for the North Agency (MPCA) has issued an air pollution health advisory for the North Agency (MPCA) has issued an air pollution health advisory for the North Agency (MPCA) has issued an air pollution health advisory for the North Agency (MPCA) has issued an air pollution health advisory for the North Agency (MPCA) has issued an air pollution health advisory for the North Agency (MPCA) has issued an air pollution health advisory for the North Agency (MPCA) has included an air pollution health advisory for the North Agency (MPCA) has a control of the North Agency (The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has issued an air pollution health advisory for the Twin Cities and Rochester for Friday, Feb. 19, and an air pollution health alert for the same The MPCA issues an air pollution health alert when the Air Quality Index (AQI) exceeds or is The MPCA issues an air pollution health alert when the Air Quality Index (AQI) exceeds or is expected to exceed 101, the level considered unhealthy for sensitive groups. An air pollution areas on Saturday, Feb. 20. An overnight temperature inversion, which traps pollutants near the surface, coupled with light expected to exceed 101, the level considered unmeaning for sensor health advisory is issued when the AQI is expected to exceed 90. An overnight temperature inversion, which traps pollutants near the surface, coupled with light to calm winds, which limit pollutant dispersion, is causing fine particle concentrations to build the limit pollutant dispersion. to calm winds, which limit pollutant dispersion, is causing time particle concentrations to build to levels considered unhealthy for sensitive groups in Rochester and the Twin Cities. As calm and the continue to levels considered in the Coloreday special to the continue to levels are accorded to the continue to levels. continues considered university for sensitive groups in reconsister and the Twin Ories. As of conditions persist into Saturday, fine particle levels are expected to continue to increase. conditions persist into Saturday, tine particle levels are expected to continue to increase.

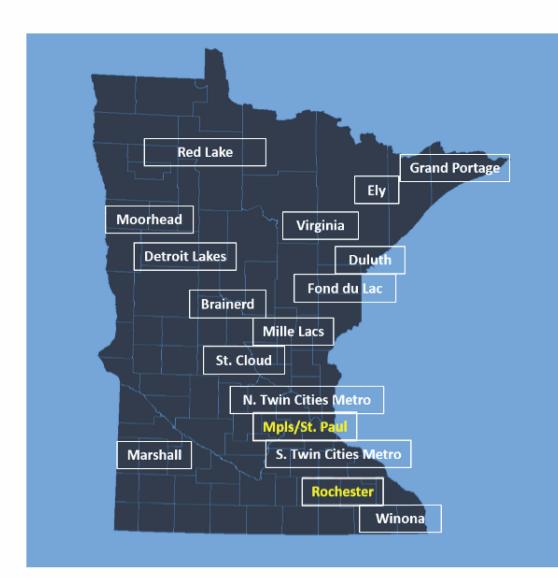
Increased wind speeds from the north on Sunday are expected to improve poliutant dispersion, but have been a business a few bonds on Sunday and level modern a ACM bonds on Increased wind speeds from the north on Sunday are expected to improve pollutant dispersion. leading to high-moderate AQI levels on Sunday and low-moderate AQI levels on Monday, Feb. regaing to high-indocrate ALB revers on Sunday and low-moderate ALB revers on Mo 22. Air quality is expected to improve to good AOI conditions by Tuesday, Feb. 23. Those with respiratory or cardiovascular problems, young children, the elderly and individuals mose with respiratory or cardiovascular problems, young children, the elderly and individual who participate in activities that require heavy exertion are the most sensitive to elevated. who participate in activities that require heavy exercion are the most sensitive to elevated levels of air pollution. Since fine particles can be drawn deeply into the lungs, it is a good idea. levels of air pollution. Since fine particles can be drawn deeply into the lungs, it is a good idea to reduce or postpone activities that lead to deep or accelerated breathing. Exposure to high to reduce or postpone activities that lead to deep or accelerated breathing. Exposure to high levels of fine particles may cause chest pain, shortness of breath, coughing and fatigue, even after air quality has improved. If you approximate these air quality has improved. levels of fine particles may cause chest pain, shortness of breath, coughing and fatigue, even after air quality has improved. If you experience these symptoms, contact your physician. Even arter air quairty has improved. It you experience triese symptoms, contact your physician individuals that are otherwise healthy may experience health effects when air pollution increases.



Evaluation of Air Quality Advisories and Alerts

- *Air Quality Advisories eliminated
- *Air Quality Alerts (AQAs) to be primary alerting method for unhealthy air quality episodes/events





Expanded forecast sites across the state

Utilizing air quality monitors statewide for instant data & verification

*Split the Twin Cities metro into 3 forecast 'zones'

Duties transferred to MPCA meteorologists

Air quality alerts: January 2016

Air quality daily forecasts: June 1 2017





Air Quality Advisory/ Alert Changes

Forecast Location Expansion

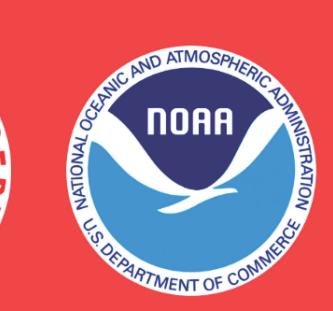
State of Minnesota agencies





National Weather Service





Tribal Nations in Minnesota



Other Agencies





Air Quality Guide for Ozone Ground-level opens is one of our nation's most common air gollutants. Use the chart below to help reduce your explaure and grotest your health. For your local or quality, visit www.aimaw.cov Mack or printiguida in PDF pt ap., 6748, and cited RIP Lipidated August 2015. Air Quality Index Who Needs to be What Should I Do? (0-500) Cencerned? It's a great day to be active outside. Moderate (51-100) Some people who may be unusually Unusually sensitive people: Consider reducing prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion. Watch for symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath. These are signs to take it a little easier. sensitive to ozone. Everyone else: It's a good day to be active outside. Everyone Unhealthy Sensitive groups: Avoid prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion. Schedule outdoor activities in the morning when coone is lower. People with asthma, keep quick-relief medicine handy. Everyone else: Rectice prolonged or fleavy outdoor exertion. Take more breaks, do less intense activities. Schedule outdoor activities in the morning when ozone is lower. Very Unhealthy (201-300) Everyone Sensitive groups: Avoid all physical activity outdoors. Move activities indoors or reschedule to a time when air quality is better People with asthma, keep quick-relief medicine handy. Everyone else: Avoid prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion. Schedule outdoor activities in the morning when czone is lower Consider. moving activities indoors. Everyone Everyone: Avold all physical activity outdoors.

Simplify and Focus the Message



Removal of Advisory -> Focus on Alert

Improved
Content and
Format of Alert

Mn Department of Health

MPCA and Mn Dept of Health review of literature in Minnesota and elsewhere of health impacts of air quality (i.e. AQI values 51-100 especially 90-100 AQI which was the subjective Advisory range)

Little to no health information used for advisory thresholds

Be more consistent with other state/local air quality agencies

Address concerns of communication desensitization

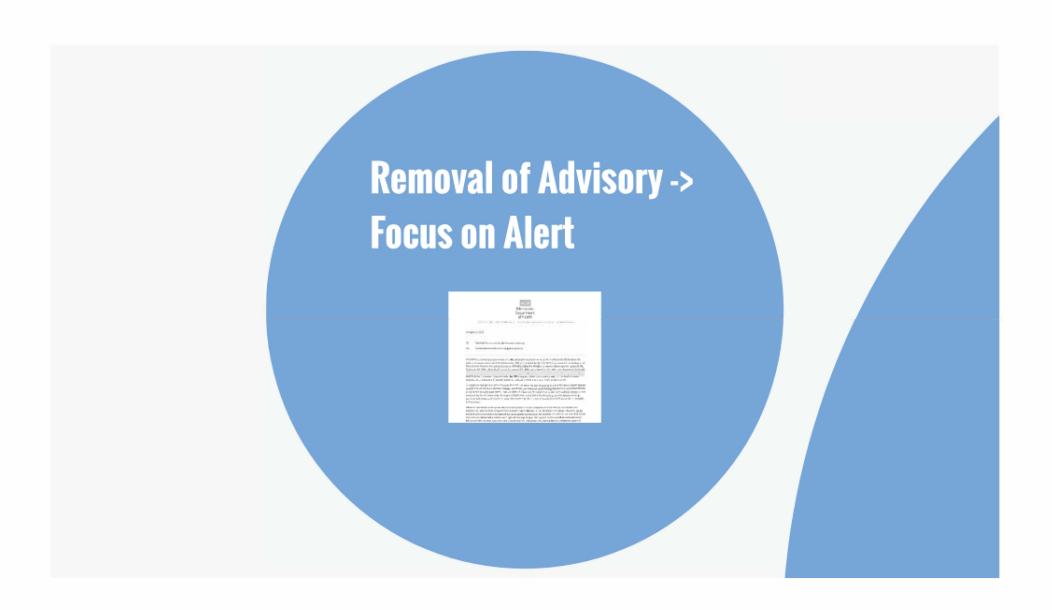
Effort of advisory unnecessarily equal to alert

Little to no health information used for advisory thresholds

Be more consistent with other state/local air quality agencies

Address concerns of communication desensitization

Effort of advisory unnecessarily equal to alert







or release: [Month Date, Year]

Title to include type of product, generic area description, and optionally pollutant of concern -- ex. Media contact: Meteorologist, 651-503-6582 Air quality alert issued due to ozone for Friday, Month/Day through Saturday, Month

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has issued an air quality alert for [region], effective Day OR begins Friday, Month/Day.

Intervenime some control of Series (1917 Co.) has issued an air quanty after for pregion), encoured [start date/time - ex. Friday, July 22 beginning at 11 a.m.] through [end date/time - ex. Saturday, July 22 beginning at 11 a.m.]

23 8 p.m.) The affected area includes [com

Example Event Description: Air quality temperatures, and light winds will com Index (AQI) values are expected to clim is considered unhealthy for sensitive g hours Friday, and will gradually rise n into the weekend, with showers and

People whose health is affected by affected when ozone pollution reac

- People who have asthma or disease (COPD), chronic bro Children and teenagers
- People of all ages who are
- Some healthy people who are more sensitive to ozone eve factors. There may be a genetic base for this increased sensitivity

Health effects: Unhealthy ozone levels can aggravate lung diseases like asthma, emphyser COPD. When the air quality is unhealthy, people with these conditions may experience sy difficulty breathing deeply, shortness of breath, throat soreness, wheezing, coughing, or fatigue. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms use your inhalers as directed and

Take Precautions: Everyone should take precautions when the air quality is unhealthy health care provider.

- -if notifies, stay away from local sources of air pollution like busy roads and woo- Take it easy and listen to your body. Limit, change, or postpone your physical activity.

AQI ALERT ~ FINAL FINE PARTICLES TEMPLATE, SEPTEMBER 2017

For release: [Month Date, Year]

Media contact: Meteorologist 651-503-6582

[Title to include type of product/generic area description, and optionally the pollutant of concern — ex. Air quality alert issued due to [wildfire smoke] for Friday, Month/Day through Saturday, Month Day OR begins Friday, Month/Day.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has issue [start date/time – ex. Friday, July 22 beginning at 8 a.m.] through [end date/time ex. Saturday, July 23

ty names as applicable).

se in fine perticles with values her observations showing visibilities olitan area as well as several locations from southwest Ontario, Canada ross the remainder of the area. re smoke. Periods of smoke <u>ore</u> /Day. During this time, fine particle ed unhealthy for sensitive groups, By noke into the affected region.

e people who are more likely to be

who have asthma or other breathing conditions like chronic obstructive pulmenary disease (COPD)

- People who have heart disease or high blood pressure
- People of all ages who are doing extended or heavy, physical activity like playing sports or

Heelth effects: Air pollution can aggravate heart and cardiovascular disease as well as lung diseases like asthma and COPD. When the air quality is unhealthy, people with these conditions may experience symptoms like chest pain, shortness of breath, wheezing, coughing, or fatigue. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, use your inhalers as directed and contact your health care provider.

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Mn Department of Transportation

Updated text on traffic signage and improved coordination for alert issuances



Updated text on traffic signage and improved coordination for alert issuances





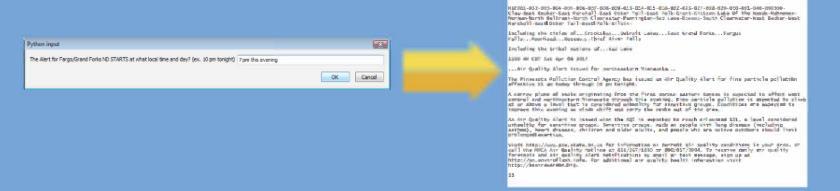


Partnership with all six offices serving Minnesota



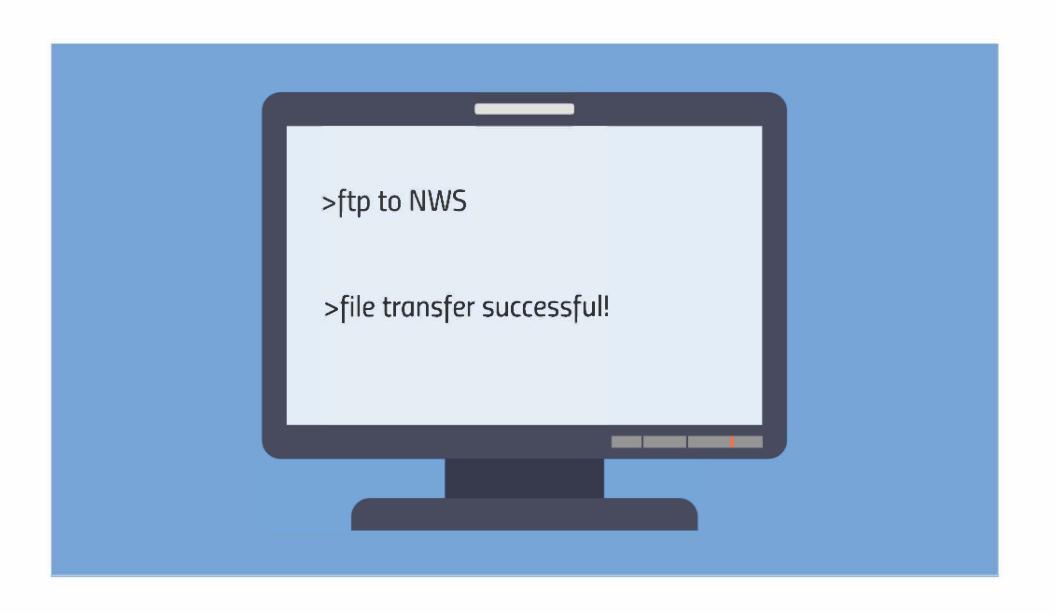
1. MPCA GIS-created map -- underlying data layer with NWS Zones Air Quality Valid: 11 am Sat-10pm Sat

2. Script with meteorologist entries, creates NWS formatted Air Quality Alert

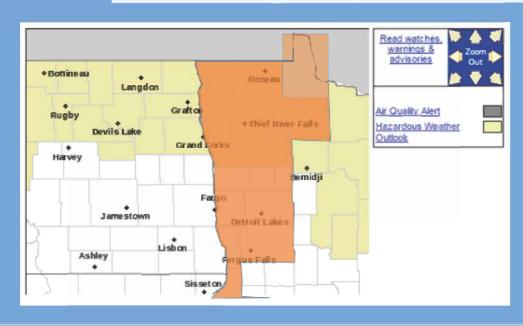


3. FTP to NWS offices - nearly instantaneous to AWIPS-2 system





4. NWS disseminates out - text and auto-graphic created



Coordination and Collaboration in Action







Inclusion/mention in Air Quality Alerts

Meetings and conference calls
Work to gain permission and
support by Tribes

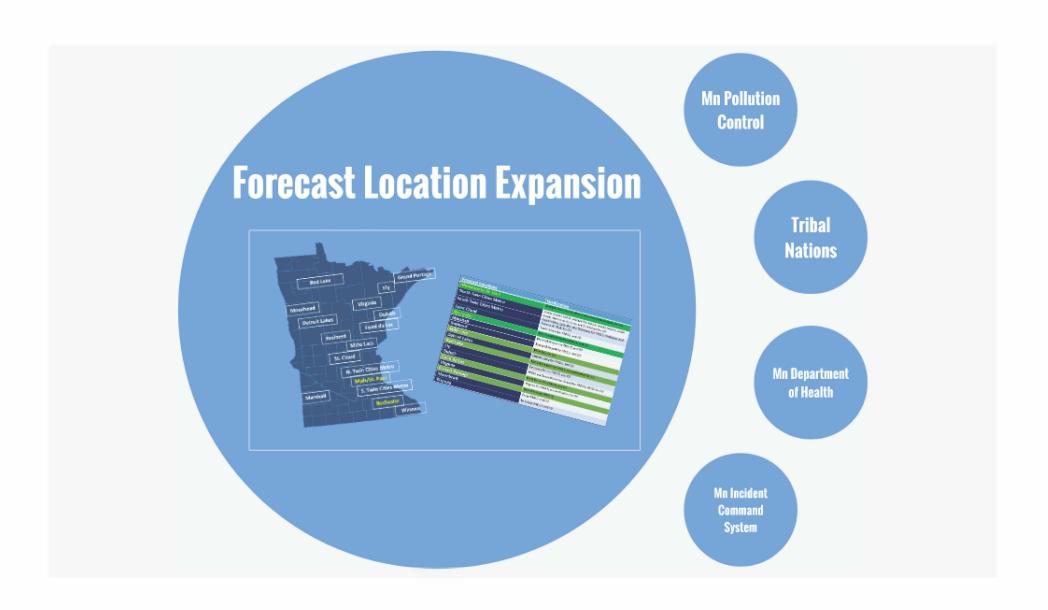


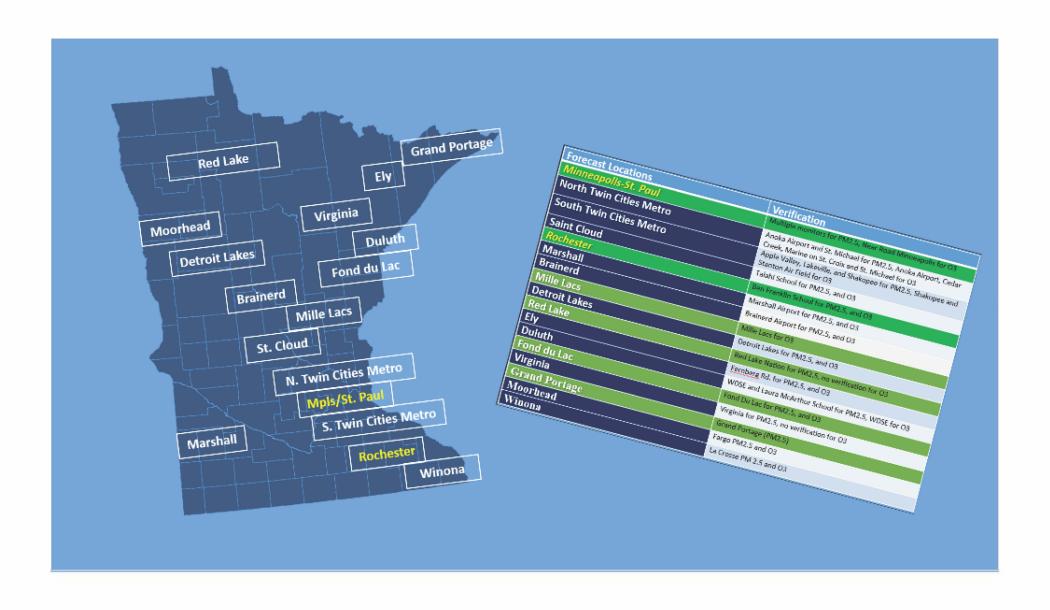
e calls and



support by Tribes

*Few to no offices east of the Rockies include Tribal Nation mention in Air Quality Alerts







Tribal Nations

Coordinate existing monitor locations on Tribal Lands and publishing forecasts

Meetings and conference calls

Work to increase awareness and importance/use of forecast by Tribes

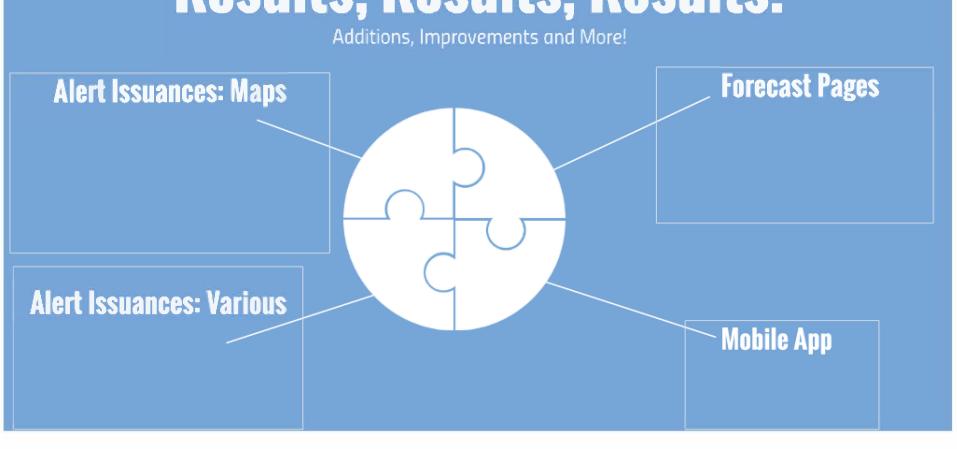


Mn Incident Command System

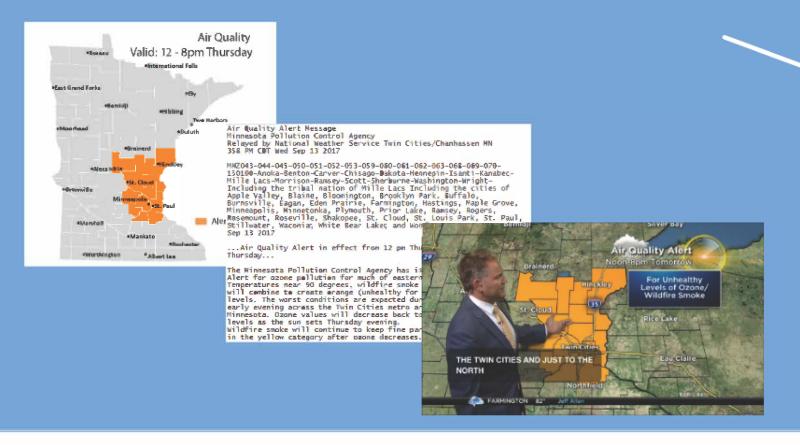
Awareness and use of AQI forecasts for both wildfire responses and permit issuances for prescribed fires



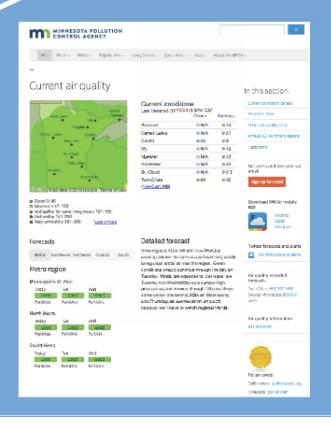


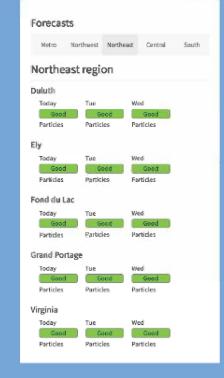


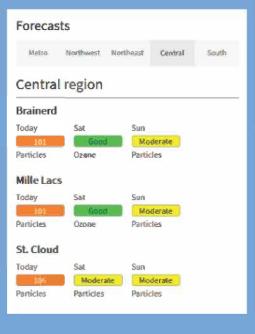
Alert Issuances: Maps



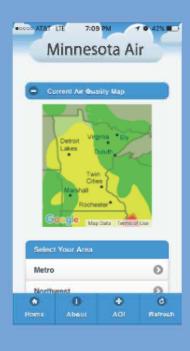
Forecast Pages



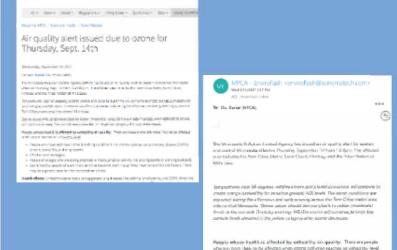




Mobile App



Alert Issuances: Various



MINHESOTA POLLUTION

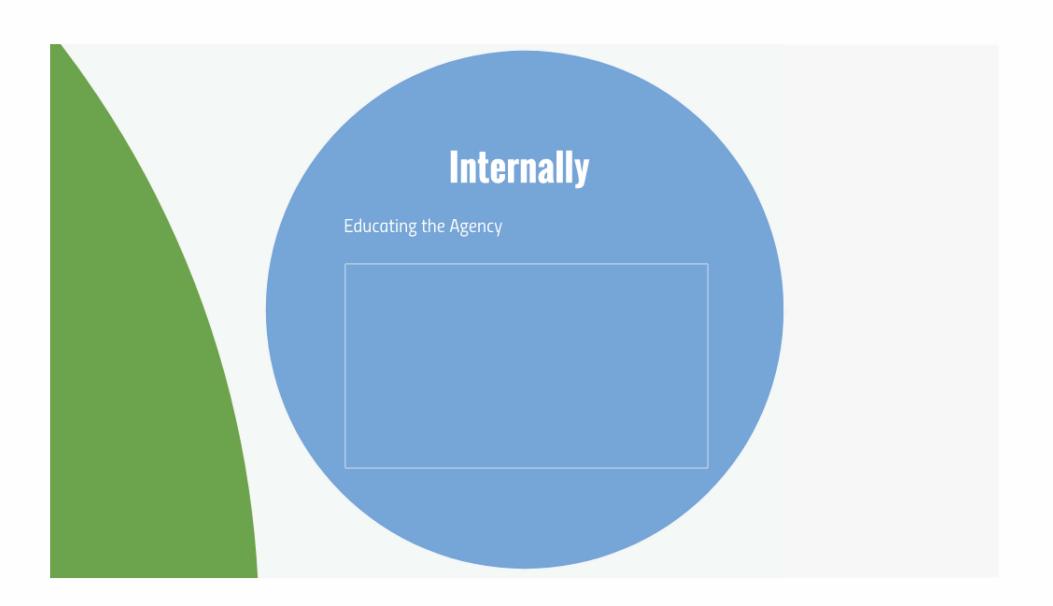




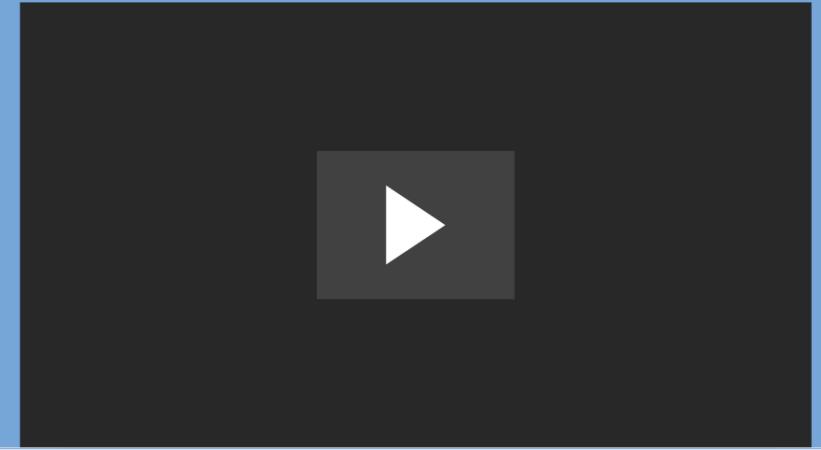


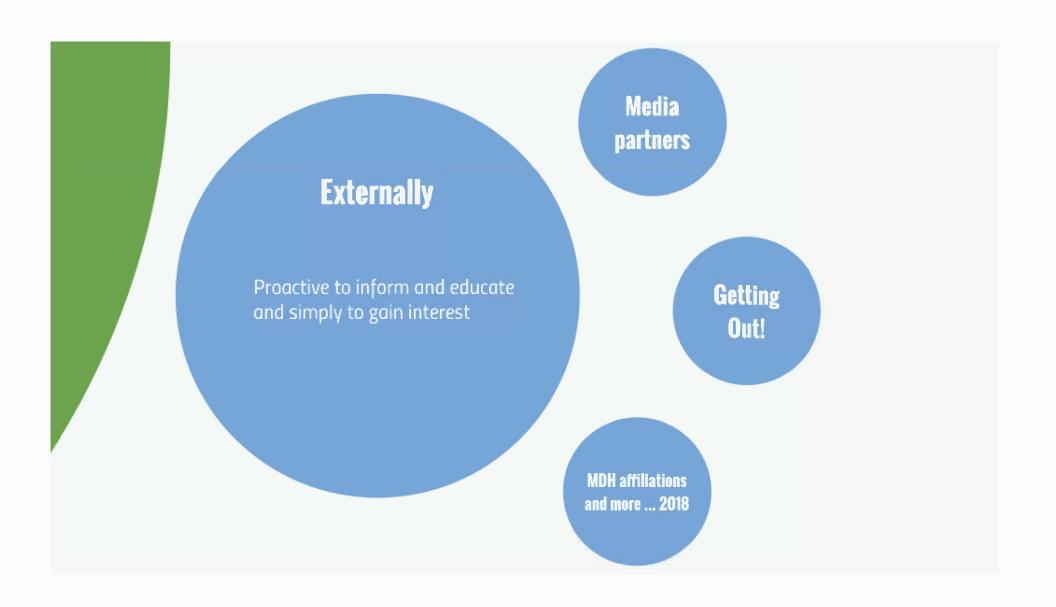


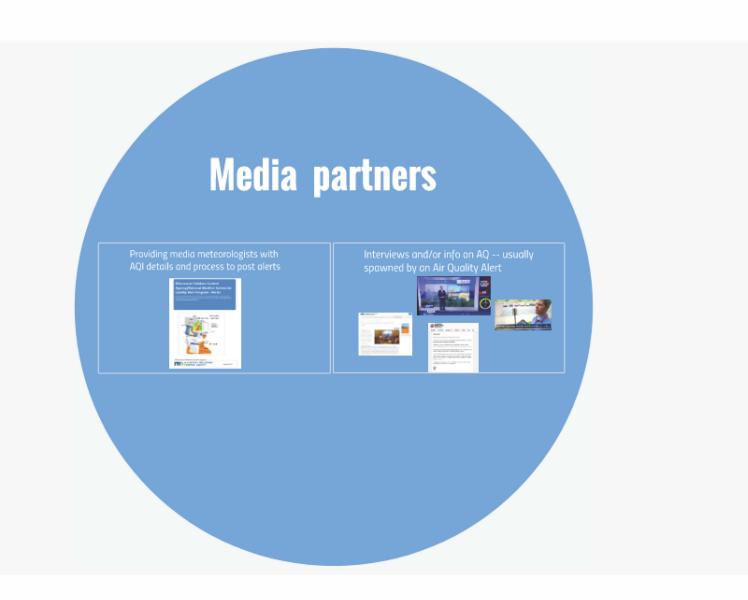




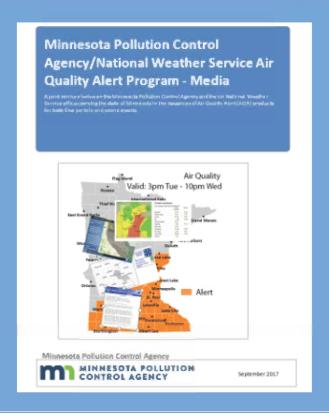
Getting Creative ... Garner Interest and Inform!







Providing media meteorologists with AQI details and process to post alerts



Interviews and/or info on AQ -- usually spawned by an Air Quality Alert









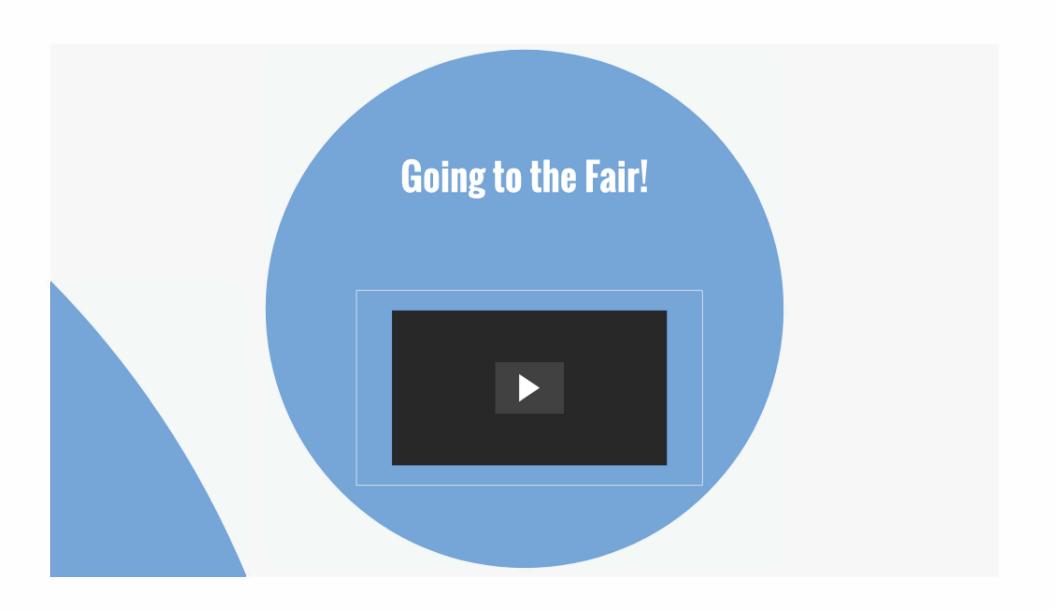




The control of the co

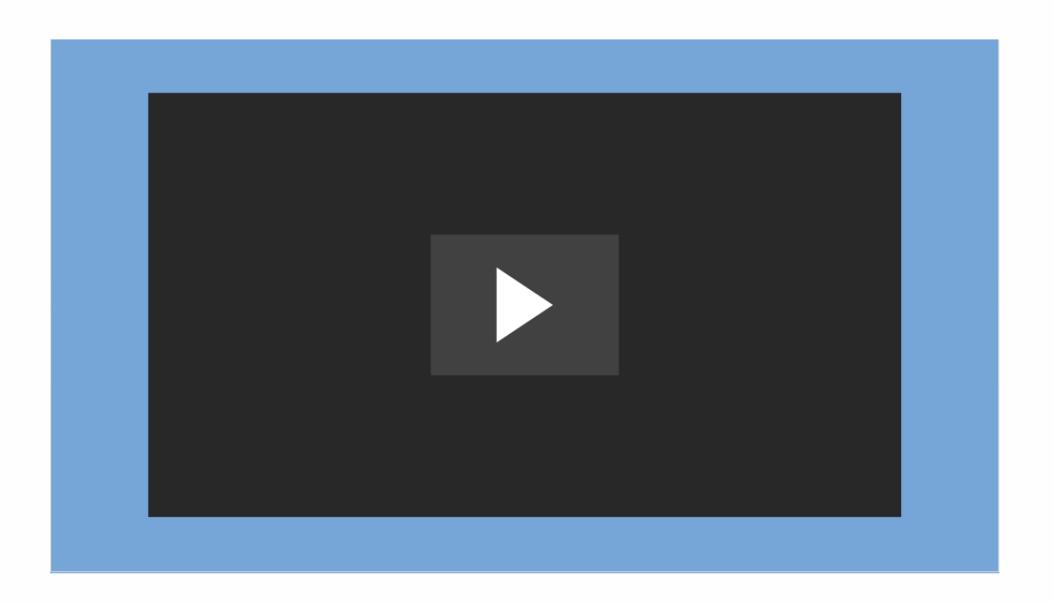
Even the odd events can get 'pub' -- Ex. late Fall agricultural odors in Twin Cities





Going to the Fair!

Largest fair in the country - *Daily Attendance and Size





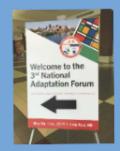
St. Paul Energy Fair



MN Science Museum



Nat'l Adapt. Forum





Nat'l Tribal Forum





St. Paul Energy Fair





MN Science Museum



Nat'l Adapt. Forum





Nat'l Tribal Forum



Schools, STEM, and more

Classroom visits to talk weather and air quality

School career and STEM fairs

Science fairs

Local weather and environmental groups



Classroom visits to talk weather and air quality

School career and STEM fairs

Science fairs

Local weather and environmental groups





Medical workshops and conferences

Academia and athletic organization events and fairs



MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

Talk with us follow us!



http://www.pca.state.mn.us/aqi

mpca.aqi@state.mn.us







