

**First Quarter Air Quality Health Index Results Released**

Fort Air Partnership (FAP), the organization that monitors the air local residents breathe, released 2019 first quarter [Air Quality Health Index](#) (AQHI) results today. The Government of Alberta calculates the AQHI using data collected at FAP's air monitoring stations. Results show air quality in and around Alberta's Industrial Heartland was of low risk to health the majority of the time from January 1 to March 31, 2019.

AQHI at FAP's seven stations registered low risk readings at least 73% of the time, with Lamont County having the highest percentage of low risk readings and Fort Saskatchewan the lowest. Risk to health increases as the index rises. None of the stations recorded hours in the very high risk range while only 66 hours were recorded at the high risk level.

Q1 - 2019		Risk Level (% of time in each)			
Station Name	Hours Monitored	Low	Moderate	High	Very High
Bruderheim	2,092	86.28%	13.00%	0.78%	-
Elk Island	2,034	87.61%	11.21%	1.18%	-
Fort Saskatchewan	1,999	73.64%	25.96%	0.40%	-
Gibbons	1,991	81.32%	18.18%	0.50%	-
Lamont County	2,131	89.11%	10.79%	0.09%	-
Redwater	2,016	84.33%	15.67%	-	-
Bon Accord*	1,368	85.93%	13.56%	0.51%	-
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>12,263</b>	<b>10,277</b>	<b>1,927</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>0</b>

*\*The portable station in Bon Accord ended operations on February 27, 2019 in preparation for a move to the Village of Chipman.*

As a comparison, results from first three months of 2018 are provided below.

Q1 - 2018		Risk Level (% of time in each)			
Station Name	Hours Monitored	Low	Moderate	High	Very High
Bruderheim	2,118	85.60%	14.40%	-	-
Elk Island	2,064	86.39%	13.18%	0.44%	-
Fort Saskatchewan	2,128	73.83%	25.89%	0.28%	-
Gibbons	2,126	76.58%	22.86%	0.56%	-
Lamont County	2,133	88.47%	11.53%	-	-
Redwater	2,059	83.97%	16.03%	-	-
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>12,628</b>	<b>10,411</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>

*Note: The portable station in Bon Accord did not begin operating until April, 2018.*

The difference in results between the first quarters of 2019 and 2018 can largely be attributed to wintertime inversions seen at various times throughout the quarter. A wintertime inversion is a weather condition where cold air along with pollutants is trapped near the ground by a layer of warm air above it.

During Q1, 2019 there were 19 one-hour exceedances and 20 24-hour exceedances of [Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives](#) (AAQO). All of the exceedances involved Respirable Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

Local residents can check the forecast and daily AQHI at [fortair.org](http://fortair.org). The website also has a live data feed of a variety of substances FAP measures, as well as weekly, quarterly and annual AQHI results.

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**Link attachment:** [Summary of Q1, 2019 Air Monitoring Results](#)