

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

Fort Air Partnership (FAP), the organization that monitors the air local residents breathe, released 2021 third quarter [Air Quality Health Index](#) (AQHI) results today. The Government of Alberta calculates the AQHI using data collected at seven of FAP’s air monitoring stations.

There were 246 hours of high and 84 hours of very high AQHI rating for the calendar quarter. These results were almost entirely a result of wildfire smoke entering the Airshed from surrounding provinces. Only 11 hours (3.3%) of the high or very high AQHI hours were due to causes other than wildfire smoke. The air monitoring stations at Elk Island, Fort Saskatchewan, and Redwater recorded the most hours of high or very high AQHI results due to the wildfire smoke, while Gibbons recorded the least.

FAP – 2021 Q3		Risk Level (% of time in each)			
Station Name	Hours Monitored	Low	Moderate	High	Very High
Bruderheim	2,145	85.64%	11.79%	1.91%	0.65%
Elk Island	2,128	89.14%	8.04%	2.02%	0.80%
Fort Saskatchewan	2,091	89.10%	7.75%	2.34%	0.81%
Gibbons	2,119	89.00%	8.87%	1.79%	0.33%
Lamont County	2,146	89.10%	8.95%	1.40%	0.56%
Redwater	2,155	88.03%	9.10%	2.09%	0.79%
Keith Purves Portable (Lamont)*	962	100%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>13,746</b>	<b>12,253</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>84</b>

*\*The Keith Purves Portable monitoring station began reporting AQHI data in Lamont on August 20, 2021.*

As a comparison, results from the third quarter of 2020 are provided on the following page.

FAP – 2020 Q3		Risk Level (% of time in each)			
Station Name	Hours Monitored	Low	Moderate	High	Very High
Bruderheim	2,134	99.39%	0.61%		
Elk Island	2,086	99.28%	0.72%	-	-
Fort Saskatchewan	2,078	99.76%	0.24%	-	-
Gibbons	2,115	99.05%	0.90%	0.05%	-
Lamont County	2,146	99.39%	0.61%	-	-
Redwater	2,111	99.95%	0.05%	-	-
Sturgeon County*	1,425	99.58%	0.42%		
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>14,095</b>	<b>14,022</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>

*\*The portable monitoring station in Sturgeon County began reporting AQHI data on August 1, 2020.*

Air quality in the region was better in Q3 of 2020 compared to the same timeframe in 2021. In Q3 of 2021, there were 1,163 hours of moderate risk AQHI, 246 hours of high risk AQHI, and 84 hours of very high AQHI. In Q3 of 2020, there were only 234 hours of moderate risk and two hours of high risk AQHI. Again, the increased number of moderate, high and very high risk hours of AQHI in Q3 of 2021 were almost entirely a result of wildfire smoke entering the Airshed from surrounding provinces.

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

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**Attachment:** [Fort Air Partnership Q3 2021 Air Monitoring Results](#)