

Efforts focus on smog ‘routes’

Governments in cities along three pollution “highways” have been told to coordinate their efforts to cut emissions and help prevent the kind of smog that again blanketed the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region on Sunday and is expected to persist for five days.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection has identified 20 cities that are required to beef up pollution controls and work to unify emergency response standards.

The cities lie on three routes – western, central and eastern – on which airborne pollutants travel north due to geological and meteorological conditions, according to Xue Wenbo, director of airborne simulation for the Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning.

There are eight such cities in Hebei province, five in Shandong province and five in Henan province, as well as Beijing and Tianjin.

Researchers have said that tackling emissions in cities along the routes will cut the severity of air pollution in neighboring areas and ultimately help Beijing meet its ambitious target this year. The goal is to reduce the daily concentration of PM2.5 – fine particulate matter that is particularly hazardous – to 60 micrograms per cubic meter, down from 73 in 2016.

The ministry has installed more monitoring stations to facilitate scientific, targeted solutions to the problem posed by the smog highways in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region.

Pollutants discharged from chimneys taller than 45 meters along the routes can reach the capital within hours, according to Chen Jining, the minister of environmental protection.

To address that problem, in 2016, the ministry sent inspection teams to 1,239 factories with 45-meter-high chimneys in the 20 cities to oversee measures to cut the rate of excessive pollutants. As a result, the rate fell from 31 percent to 3.79 percent over the 12 months, Chen said.

In addition, the ministry also limited or halted industrial production and processing of iron and steel and ordered cities to coordinate their smog responses.

“We’ve found that some cities do not make a timely emergency response or do less than is required, to avoid affecting industrial production,” said Liu Bingjiang, head of air quality management for the ministry.

Cities should engage in joint controls instead of waiting for others to act, he said, adding that government officials’ performance will be assessed by the ministry.

The smog across the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region is expected to reach a peak

on Tuesday and Wednesday in terms of severity and coverage, according to the China National Environmental Monitoring Center.

Twenty-three cities are forecast to experience severe air pollution on Wednesday, including Beijing, Tianjin, Shijiazhuang and Baoding in Hebei province, Jinan and Dezhou in Shandong province, and Zhengzhou in Henan province.

Moms give milk for premature babies

About 500 mothers have called the Shanghai Children's Hospital to offer breast milk after the hospital said its supplies could run out within a week, a hospital official told Shanghai Daily yesterday.

The city's first "breast milk bank" was established at the hospital eight months ago for premature babies, for whom breast milk is vital.

The hospital said it has collected more than 470 liters of milk over the past eight months and serves an average 13 premature babies a day at 2-3 liters a day.

But the hospital now only has about 20 liters as the cold discourages volunteers from going to hospital to donate.

"Thanks to positive reactions from the mothers, we believe that the bank will be filled up again very soon," said a doctor surnamed Pan who is responsible for taking calls from interested mothers.

Pan said first-time donors must undergo a blood test before donating. They can then express milk at home and freeze it. It is also possible to donate fresh at the hospital. Pan told Shanghai Daily that this bank also serves babies born at other hospitals, but so far there has only been one request.

"Parents of babies born in other hospitals have to come to us every day to get fresh milk, which could be a trouble for them," she said. Interested mothers can call 18017329172 and talk to Doctor Pan.

China to relocate 3.4mln people in 2017 to tackle poverty

China plans to relocate 3.4 million people from poverty-stricken communities

to more developed areas this year as part of its poverty reduction drive, according to government sources.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country's economic planner, said 2.49 million people living in poverty had been relocated in 2016, meeting the target for the year.

By the end of 2016, there were relocation projects in 22 provinces, which include housing, infrastructure and public services, Yang Qian, an official with the NDRC said.

Local authorities are also exploring supportive industries, employment and social security for the relocated people.

China has vowed to lift all of its poor out of poverty by 2020. Alleviating poverty through relocation is one aspect of the strategy.

By the end of 2016, there were 45 million people living in poverty, many in areas without roads, clean drinking water or power.

HSL: DSEAR Compliance for Managers and Supervisors – Buxton, 9 Mar 2017

Book Course

HSL is to run a 1 day course on DSEAR – Compliance for Managers and Supervisors.

9 March 2017

HSL is to run a course on the identification and control of risks from dangerous substances required to comply with the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (DSEAR).

The regulations place duties on employers and the self-employed to protect employees, contractors and others from the risks from fires and explosions related to dangerous substances stored and used in the workplace.

This course explains the duties that DSEAR places on employers and the actions needed to comply with them. It focuses particularly on the assessment of risks and the application of controls to both minimise and mitigate those risks.

The course will cover

Who should attend?

Managers and supervisors of process plant and operations, where dangerous substances are used or stored, who need to understand how to manage the risks from dangerous substances within the framework of the DSEAR duties.

Venue

The course will be run at the HSL laboratory in the spa town of Buxton. Buxton is in the heart of the Peak District and has good links to mainline train stations and Manchester International Airport. This course can be run at your site or local area by arrangement.

Details of hotels in the Buxton area can be found at www.visitbuxton.co.uk

Cost

The cost of this course is £495 per person (includes course notes, certificate of attendance and lunch/refreshments).

[Book Course](#)

Please note the invoice option is not available within 4 weeks of the course date, or for overseas customers. If you are selecting the invoice option for payment, it will be mandatory to input a purchase order/reference number as we are unable to process booking forms without this.

For further dates and additional information email: training@hsl.gsi.gov.uk or contact the Training & Conferences Unit at HSL directly on +44 (0)1298 218806.

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HSL: Biological Monitoring for Chemical Exposures at Work – Buxton, 9 Mar 2017

[Book Course](#)

HSL is to run a 1/2 day course on Biological Monitoring for Chemical Exposures at Work.

9 March 2017

Biological monitoring is a useful tool for occupational hygiene and health professionals. It is based on the analysis of hazardous substances or their metabolites in urine, blood or breath, and is used to assess chemical exposures by inhalation, ingestion and absorption through the skin.

Biological monitoring is particularly valuable where substances may be absorbed through the skin or where control of exposure relies on personal protective equipment. It can also be used to investigate the behavioural aspects of exposure controls.

This workshop is an overview of biological monitoring and how it can enhance the service that occupational hygiene and health professionals offer.

- An introduction to biological monitoring.
- Practicalities – how to establish a biological monitoring programme.
- View from a practitioner – using biological monitoring to assess chemical exposures.
- Practical session – small group working using a case study.
- Interpreting results – understanding and acting on the results received.

The workshop is designed for occupational hygiene and health providers who are interested in what biological monitoring can do for them and their clients and for company employees specifically responsible for worker health protection.

Comments & Feedback

“Excellent, well worth the time.”

Andrew Booth, RPS Business Healthcare

The course will be run at the HSL laboratory in the spa town of Buxton. Buxton is in the heart of the Peak District and has good links to mainline train stations and Manchester International Airport.

Details of hotels in the Buxton area can be found at www.visitbuxton.co.uk

Cost

The cost of this course is £295 per person (includes course notes, takeaway lunch and refreshments). A special offer is available to those attending the [Measurement of Hazardous Substances](#) course.

Book Course

Please note the invoice option is not available within 4 weeks of the course date, or for overseas customers. If you are selecting the invoice option for payment, it will be mandatory to input a purchase order/reference number as we are unable to process booking forms without this.

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