



Air Quality Policy

Approved date: July 19, 2025

PURPOSE

This air quality policy has been developed by the Alberta Cancer Foundation to assist the Tour Alberta for Cancer team in determining the best course(s) of action should the ride be impacted by low visibility or forest fire smoke.

OVERVIEW

The Air Quality Health Index is standardized across Canada and provides a number from 1 to 10+ to indicate the level of health risk associated with local air quality. Occasionally, when the amount of air pollution is abnormally high, the number may exceed 10. The AQHI provides a local air quality current value as well as local air quality maximums forecast for today, tonight and tomorrow and provides associated health advice. As it is now known that even low levels of air pollution can trigger discomfort for the sensitive population, the index has been developed as a continuum: The higher the number, the greater the health risk and need to take precautions. The index describes the level of health risk associated with this number as 'low', 'moderate', 'high' or 'very high', and suggests steps that can be taken to reduce exposure.

TOUR ALBERTA FOR CANCER CONTEXT

The Tour Alberta for Cancer is a long-distance bicycle ride that travels across varying terrain and conditions over several days. For the purposes of determining appropriate action, the AQHI rating should be taken from the nearest monitoring station to the race start/finish line.

DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY

Should the air quality be such that the event is impacted to the extent that a decision needs to be made as to whether the event should be re-scheduled, reduced in length or cancelled, it should be done in consultation with the Alberta Cancer Foundation's Director, Events and Community Relations, Vice President of Communications and Community Partnerships and the Chief Executive Officer. The final decision to modify the Tour plan will rest with the Chief Executive Officer.

APPROPRIATE ACTIONS BASED ON AIR QUALITY CATEGORY

Air quality category	Message	Action
Good Visibility: 15 kms and up AQHI 1-3	Ideal air quality for outdoor activities.	Ideal conditions for the event.
Moderate / Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups Visibility: 5-14kms AQHI 4 – 6	Be aware of health effects of smoke and related symptoms.	Be aware of health effects of smoke and related symptoms.
Unhealthy Visibility: 2.5-4kms AQHI 7	Reduce or re-schedule strenuous activities, especially if you experience symptoms.	Reduce event to maximum 50 km length. Provide warning to competitors with respiratory issues e.g. Asthma.
Very Unhealthy Visibility: 1.5-2kms AQHI 8 – 10	Avoid prolonged strenuous activities and stay indoors if possible.	Cancel or postpone cycling portion of event. Proceed with Festival with indoor space available.
HAZARDOUS Visibility: < 1.0km AQHI 10+	Avoid all strenuous activities and stay indoors.	Cancel or postpone cycling portion of event. Proceed with Festival with indoor space available.