



National Air Quality Forecast (AQF) Capability:

- Improving the Basis for AQ Alerts
- AQ Information for People at Risk



	<i>Current AQ Alerts</i>	<i>NWS Initial Operational Capability: September, 2004</i>	<i>NWS Capability: 5-Year Vision</i>	<i>NWS Capability: 10-Year Vision</i>
Purpose: Limit adverse effects from poor AQ, by providing	Next-day warnings for large cities	State-of-the-science ozone forecast guidance: - to assist state / local AQ forecasters - to assist people at risk from poor AQ	State-of-the-science ozone forecast guidance - to assist state / local AQ forecasters - to assist people at risk from poor AQ	State-of-the-science ozone and particulates forecast guidance: - to assist state / local AQ forecasters - to assist people at risk from poor AQ
Products for Public	Daily AQ alerts; predicted interpretive AQ Index category	Hour-by-hour predictions of air pollutant concentrations in digital and graphical formats	Hour-by-hour predictions of air pollutant concentrations in digital and graphical formats	Hour-by-hour predictions of air pollutant concentrations available in state-of-the-art formats
Coverage	Approximately 300 cities	Entire Northeast United States	Nationwide	Nationwide
Pollutants Forecasted	Air Quality Index for ozone; some cities include particulates	Ground-level ozone	Ground-level ozone	Ground level ozone, particulate matter , possibly others
Forecast Period	Next-day; also through weekends	Forecast guidance issued through midnight next day	Forecast guidance issued through midnight next day	Forecast guidance extended to 2 days or beyond
Spacial Resolution	Alerts are community-wide; little/ no other spacial information	12 kilometer grid for northeast U.S	5 km grid for Nation	2.5 kilometer grid for Nation
Temporal Resolution	Daily	Hourly and 8-hr averages each hour throughout the forecast period	Hourly and 8-hr averages each hour throughout the forecast period	Hourly and 8-hr averages each hour throughout the forecast period