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NEWS RELEASE
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DEQ & University Researchers Launch Air Toxics Study
Neil Armstrong Academy Students Learn About Air Quality

WHO: Utah Department of Environmental Quality scientists, along with researchers from Brigham Young University, will unveil an air toxic study to students at Neil Armstrong Academy. Researchers include:

- Munkh Baasandorj, a Ph.D environmental scientist with DEQ's Division of Air Quality (DAQ)
- Jaron Hansen, a Ph.D professor of chemistry, BYU
- Paul Cropper, a Ph.D candidate, BYU
- Roman Kuprov, environmental scientists with DAQ

WHAT: The Environmental Protection Agency recently awarded DEQ a \$355,000 grant to conduct air toxics monitoring to evaluate the exposures of hazardous air emissions.

WHEN: 10 a.m., Tuesday, January 26

WHERE: Neil Armstrong Academy, 5194 Highbury Parkway, West Valley City

WHY: The study site is located at Neil Armstrong Academy in West Valley City, an area where emissions from variety of sources such as industry, highways, the airport, combined with winter inversions creates exposure concerns for the local community. The data collected by this project is critical to identifying toxic components and improving air quality in the area.

“This study will provide a comprehensive data set of organic compounds that is currently not available,” said Patrick Barickman, environmental program manager at DAQ, who is overseeing the research. “Because of this level of detail, these measurements will help us to characterize the potential sources of these pollutants in the urban area.”

**Photo opportunities include brief presentation to students and demonstration of lab equipment*

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About DEQ

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) mission is to safeguard public health and quality of life by protecting and enhancing the environment. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah's air, land and water. For more information, visit www.deq.utah.gov, follow DEQ on Facebook ([utahdeq](https://www.facebook.com/utahdeq)) and Twitter ([UtahDEQ](https://twitter.com/UtahDEQ)), or call 1-800-458-0145.