



State of Utah

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Environmental Quality

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**MEDIA AVAILABILITY**

**Researchers to Unveil Utah Winter Pollution Aircraft Study**

**WHO:** The following researchers will give presentations:

- Dr. Munkhbayar Baasandorj, scientist with DAQ and University of Utah
- Dr. Steven Brown, NOAA scientist
- Dr. Russell Long, EPA scientist
- Dr. Philip Silva, USDA scientist
- Dr. Sebastian Hoch, University of Utah

The research team also includes the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder (NOAA Partner), Environmental Protection Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, University of Utah, Utah State University, Brigham Young University, University of Toronto, University of Washington and University of Minnesota.

**WHAT:** Researchers will unveil one of the most significant air quality studies in Utah. The study, “Utah Winter Fine Particulate Study” involves the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) specially equipped aircraft known as the Twin Otter, along with multiple ground-based observation sites. The aircraft will fly over the Cache, Salt Lake, and Utah valleys from January 17 to February 14, 2017, to survey the chemical conditions responsible for the formation of particulate pollution, known as PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The Utah Legislature provided about \$130,000 as seed money to get the estimated \$2 million project going. NOAA, EPA, USDA and the Universities are donating equipment and expertise.

**WHEN:** 2:30-4:30 p.m. Friday, January 20, 2017

**WHERE:** University of Utah’s INSCC conference room, Room 110, located at 155 S. 1452 East.

**WHY:** This study will help DEQ’s Division of Air Quality (DAQ) understand the chemical reactions that take place in the upper portion of the pollution layer during these episodes, to determine the best ways to reduce the emissions that create PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

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**About DEQ**

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ) mission is to safeguard and improve Utah’s air, land and water through balanced regulation. 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](http://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.