

## **TCEQ Meteorologists Show how Weather Modeling is used to Forecast Texas air Quality**

BL: Bryan Lambeth

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WC: We're using, you know, real information that's coming in. We're using a variety of different meteorological and air quality models and we definitely have a lot of tools at our fingertips that we can use to make these forecasts.

BL: One of the things I check every hour is the current weather conditions. And that's what we have on the screen here right now. And we look at the wind flow, cloud cover, if it's cloudy and rainy you're not going to have high ozone, and it's going to wash out the particulates. That's a good sign that you won't have any bad air quality if it's raining. And then we have our own specialized imagery that we receive here. This is satellite and we can compare it to the latest radar. We can see thundershowers in the Corpus Christi area, but fairly clear in Houston starting out today. We also have imagery that we process ourselves. This is a view of the Texas area in the Gulf of Mexico. And it's fairly clear in most of the state today with some clouds along the coast and Southwest Texas. And we have a view of the Gulf of Mexico here. We look for things like smoke in the spring coming up from Mexico and Central America. And dust clouds in the summer coming in from Africa, as well as tropical systems. There's a little area of disturbed weather in the Gulf of Mexico today that we're keeping an eye on. And farther out in the Atlantic we have this special shot that we made that allows us to look at dust coming across the Atlantic. And there're actually a couple of dust clouds. One off the coast of Africa in association with tropical storm Alberto. And then another dust cloud following the remnants of tropical storm Gabrielle. In the Western Atlantic right around the Eastern Caribbean, and just north of Puerto Rico. We focus on the Atlantic because the trade winds bring dust across the Atlantic. And we focus on the Gulf of Mexico because in the spring and sometimes in the early summer we get smoke coming up from the annual burning that goes on in Mexico and Central America. Agricultural burning. And that smoke often comes right around the periphery of that same high pressure system and right into Texas.

[2:07 end of video]