

Hydrocarbons (THC, CH₄, and NMHC)

Hydrocarbons refer to a broad family of chemicals that contain carbon and hydrogen atoms. This includes a number of organic compounds. Sources of hydrocarbons include vegetation, natural biological processes, industrial emissions, transportation, and leisure activities. The total hydrocarbon analyzers employed in the ACA network are unable to differentiate individual hydrocarbon compounds and are limited to the total hydrocarbons (THC) and non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHC). Currently, there is no ambient air quality objective in Alberta for these hydrocarbons. The typical background THC concentration in Alberta has been reported between 1.9 to 2.4 ppm.