

*Shock event planning.* Turbulent, hostile and dynamic environments throw up many new opportunities which need to be spotted and 'grabbed' when they arise.

## ASPECTS OF AIR POLLUTION

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Air pollution turns clear, odorless air into hazy, smelly air that harms health kills plants, damages property. People cause air pollution both outdoors and indoors. Most air pollution results from combustion (burning) processes. The burning of gasoline to power motor vehicles and the burning of coal to heat buildings and help manufacture products are examples of such processes. Each time a fuel is burned in a combustion process, some type of pollutant is released into the air. The pollutants range from small amounts of colorless poison gas to clouds of thick black smoke. Weather conditions can help reduce the amount of pollutants in outdoor air. Wind scatters pollutants, and rain and snow wash them into the ground. At times, weather conditions cause pollutants to build up over an area instead of clearing them away. One such condition is called thermal inversion.

One serious result of air pollution is its harmful effect on human health. Both gases and particulates burn people's eyes and irritate their lungs. Particulates can settle in the lungs and worsen such respiratory diseases as asthma, bronchitis, and pneumonia.

Air pollutants may also affect climate. Some gases, including carbon dioxide, allow sunlight to reach the ground, but prevent the sunlight's heat from rising out of the atmosphere and flowing back into space. The warming of the earth's surface that results is called the greenhouse effect.

In addition, air pollutants may damage the layer of ozone (a form of oxygen) in the earth's upper atmosphere. The ozone layer protects animals and plants from much of the sun's harmful ultraviolet light.