

# Beijing's "Airpocalypse"

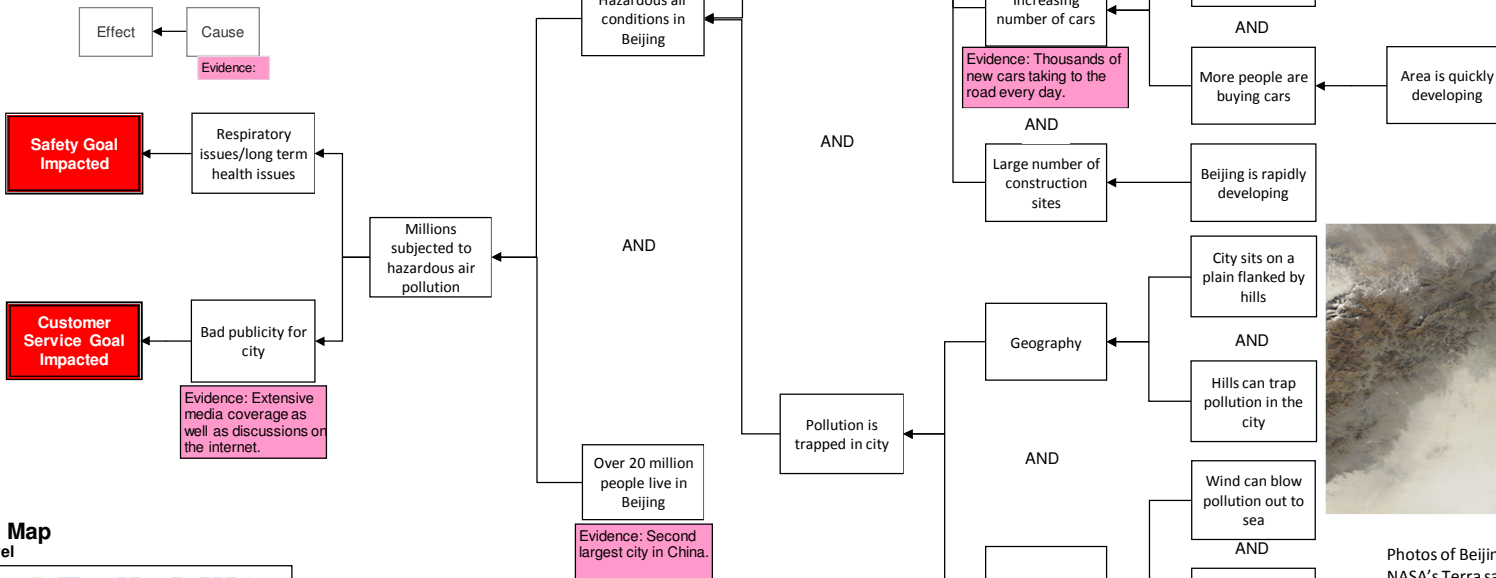
Beijing, China  
Mid-January 2013

Beijing's air pollution was at levels considered hazardous to human health for nearly a week during mid-January, 2013. During this event, colorfully dubbed the "airpocalypse", pollution levels peaked at 755 as measured by the Air Quality Index (AQI). This value is considered "Beyond Index" because it is well above the 500 which is considered the maximum AQI value. Any AQI value over 300 is considered hazardous.

## 1 Problem

What	Problem(s)	Extreme air pollution in Beijing
When	Date	Mid-January 2013
	Differences	Unusually cold winter
Where	Physical Location	Beijing, China
<b>Impact to the Goals</b>		
	Safety	Respiratory issues/long term health issues
	Customer Service	Bad publicity for city

## 2 Analysis

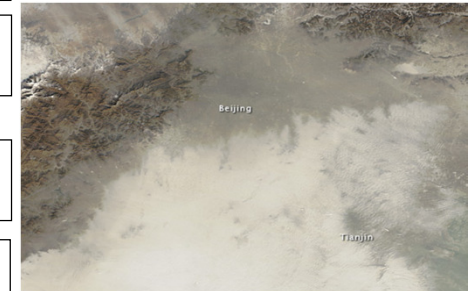


Cause Mapping is a Root Cause Analysis method that captures basic cause-and-effect relationships supported with evidence.

### CAUSE MAPPING

Problem Solving • Incident Investigation • Root Cause Analysis

- Step 1 **Problem** What's the
- Step 2 **Analysis** Why did it
- Step 3 **Solutions** What will



Photos of Beijing on January 14, 2013 taken by NASA's Terra satellite show extreme air pollution.

## 3 Solutions

The final step in the Cause Mapping process is to develop and implement solutions to prevent the same thing from recurring. The Chinese government did take several steps to try to mitigate the immediate problem with the air pollution by limiting the use of cars and temporarily shutting down some factories. The pollution finally cleared up as the wind began to blow, but continued efforts will be needed to prevent similar issues in the future.

Cause Map  
High Level

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