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HEADLINE: Residents to learn to test **air** quality;
Devices to check for chemicals on display

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BODY:

People who live in the shadow of industrial plants should be armed with ways to find out what's in the **air** they breathe, environmentalists say.

That's the theory behind Saturday's environmental monitoring fair at which academics, environmentalists, government officials and industry representatives will demonstrate different machines to test the **air** for chemicals.

"It's a very reasonable request for people who live near industry to know what's in their **air**," said Anne Rolfes, director of the Louisiana **Bucket Brigade**.

The fair is sponsored by the **Bucket Brigade** and a Massachusetts Institute of Technology grant. Seven other environmental groups are supporting the fair.

Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Environmental Quality will explain federal and state monitoring programs, and Norco's Shell Chemical Co. and Motiva Refining Corp. will have representatives, Shell spokeswoman Lily Galland said.

The **Bucket Brigade** gives residents a way to see what's in the air -- specialized "buckets" with a plastic bag inside. With this method, when residents smell something in the air they trap an air sample in the bucket and send it to a lab for testing.

Although the buckets cost \$150 each, analyzing each sample costs \$500. Some of the other models that will be displayed at the fair cost between \$1,400 to \$8,700 but display pollution concentrations immediately.

Norco resident Iris Carter, who lives near the Shell plant said she feels like a "sitting duck" when she smells something in the air, and that equipment to tell what's in the air immediately would make her feel like she has power over her environment.

"We need some serious monitoring in this area," she said. "It really needs to be done."

In addition to monitoring equipment, the fair will feature food and activities like an inflatable amusement ride.

Admission is free. The fair will be at the park at 9th and Terrace streets in New Sarpy from noon to 4 p.m.

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