2019 British newspaper (The Guardian) leads with a warning about the invisible threat of air pollution and mentions the rise in birthweight of babies born in Beijing after the clean-up for the 2008 Olympics.

2019 Second inquest into death of Ella Kissi-Debrah in London reveals reluctant action despite awareness, “There is momentum for change and it is fundamental that air pollution is brought down to within lawful limits.”

2017 New Delhi in India bans fireworks during Diwali to prevent a repeat of the "airpocalypse" the previous year caused by the extra smoke and chemicals.

2015 Chai Jing's self-funded “Under the Dome” documentary features a mother’s worries about raising her daughter in the polluted air of a major Chinese city.

2013 Nine-year-old Ella Kissi-Debrah dies in London after suffering three years of asthma attacks and seizures. She lived close to a major road and the local air pollution station consistently exceeded EU limits.

2008 Authorities admit air pollution will be a problem at the Beijing Olympics: “Controlling only local sources in Beijing will not be sufficient to attain the air quality goal set for the Beijing Olympics. There is an urgent need for regional air quality management studies and new emission control strategies”

1992 Guangzhou is the first city in China to ban fireworks due to the air pollution caused.

1984 The Bhopal disaster in India at Union Carbide’s pesticide plant exposed hundreds of thousands of people to forty tons of toxic methyl isocyanate. Nearly four thousand died and the US company paid almost $500m in compensation.

1982 Godfrey Reggio’s “Koyaanisqatsi” documentary (no speech, soundtrack by Philip Glass) juxtaposes images of nature, humanity and heavy industry.

1967 The US Air Quality Act is finally created.

1956 UK Clean Air Act is created in response to the 1952 London smog.

1952 London smog event. “We estimate about 12,000 excess deaths occurred from December 1952 through February 1953 because of acute and persisting effects of the 1952 London smog.”

1948 Donora smog in Pennsylvania, USA. Nearly half the population of the small town were affected and twenty died from the smog of hydrogen fluoride, sulphur dioxide and other toxins.

1930 Sixty people died in the December smog covering a valley of factories lining the River Meuse in Belgium. It "led to the first scientific proof for the potential of atmospheric pollution to cause deaths." Belgium did not have air quality legislation until it was created by the EU.

1923 The fog in London inspires the US brand "London Fog" of weather-proof accessories such as coats and umbrellas

1880s Observers debate the effects of the global atmospheric pollutants from the Krakatoa volcanic eruption in 1883 on the artistic depiction of sunsets.