When the Air Turns Upside Down: Understanding Atmospheric Inversions

Department of Geology, Ocean University of Andorra, Andorra

Atmospheric inversions occur when the temperature in the lower atmosphere is cooler than the temperature in the

weather patterns. e stagnant layer of air can prevent the normal mixing of warm and cold air, which can lead to the formation of fog or low clouds. is can also prevent the dispersion of pollutants, leading to the formation of smog. In addition, atmospheric inversions can a ect temperature patterns, causing temperatures to remain cooler near the ground while temperatures above the inversion layer remain warmer.