What You Can Do To Reduce Air Toxics

Organize or Join an Existing Local Organization, such as Downwinders at Risk and Blue Skies Alliance

- Hold regular meetings and bring in speakers to talk about different issues

Find Out More About What's Going On In Your Community

- Request a cancer or birth defect study from the Department of State Health Service, such as the Nueces County birth defect study conducted for the local group Citizens for Environmental Justice
- Conduct a health survey in industrial neighborhoods
- Record a pollution log, keeping track of industrial upset events and immediate health effects

Make Your Voice Heard

- Write letters to the editor and opinion-editorials about timely issues
- Meet with your local policy makers

Clean Up Dirty Diesels

- Meet with your local school board and policy makers to see if there are ways to retrofit dirty diesel school buses and city transit buses—hold a school Retro-fit party to raise $

Important Numbers

City of Dallas Air Pollution Control: (214) 948-4435 or 3-1-1

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Complaint Hotline: (888) 777-3186

Environmental Protection Agency Emergency Hotline (800) 424-8802

Air Risk Hotline: (919) 541-0888
Provides detailed technical assistance and general technical guidance on matters pertaining to health, exposure, and risk assessment of toxic air pollutants.

1002 West Ave.● Austin, TX 78701 ● (512) 477-1155 ● www.citizen.org/Texas

Air Toxics: What you don't know CAN hurt you

What are Air Toxics?

Air Toxics are the 188 hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) identified by the 1990 federal Clean Air Act amendments as pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects.

Air Toxics are known or suspected to contribute to various cancers, such as leukemia, as well as birth defects, reproductive and developmental problems, immune system disorders, and respiratory and neurological diseases.

We cross paths with air toxics everyday; they are a harmful byproduct of our modern society. The major sources of air toxics are industrial facilities, such as refineries that produce our gasoline and fossil-fueled power plants that make our electricity.

Transportation and construction equipment are also large sources of hazardous air pollution. Long-haul trucks, tractors, buses, trains, and boats all spew diesel particulate matter that is a toxic soup made up of 40 air toxics, including 15 carcinogens.

We can live in our modern world without being poisoned from air toxics. Solutions exist that will significantly reduce the public's exposure to hazardous pollutants. Decision-makers must require these solutions are put in place, while citizens must hold the decision-makers accountable and industries need to act in a socially responsible manner.

Dallas, Tarrant and Ellis Counties & Air Toxics

Fast Health Facts:

- Tarrant County has statistically higher rates of cancer for all sites combined in females and males when compared to the state.
- Dallas County has statistically higher rates of cancer in females for all sites combined when compared to the state, while Ellis County has statistically higher rates of cancer in males for all cancer sites combined.
- Dallas County has higher rates of birth defects when compared to the state for 13 of the 20 birth defects that are the most prevalent in Texas. Tarrant County has higher rates for 17 of these birth defects. Both Dallas & Tarrant Counties have higher rates of the birth defects spina bifida without anencephaly and anencephaly when compared to the state.

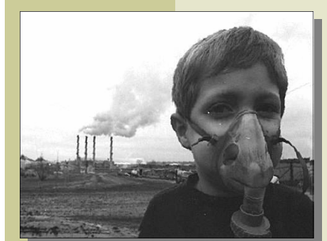
Dallas, Arlington and Ellis Counties
State of the Air 2006
Ozone Grade: F
Populations at Risk

Pediatric Asthma: 96,406
Adult Asthma: 206,150
Chronic Bronchitis: 115,448
Emphysema: 39,482
Cardiovascular Disease: 849,249
Diabetes: 176,117
Total Population: 4,011,504
Population Under 18: 1,138,213
Population 65 and Up: 331,310

Source: American Lung Association 2006

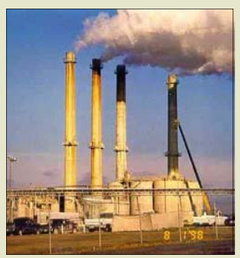
Cement Kilns Release Tons of Air Toxics That Threaten the Health of Nearby Citizens

The latest figures from the U.S. EPA's Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) show that Midlothian cement kilns in one year alone released nearly 400 tons of hazardous air pollution, including 58,000 pounds of cancer-causing benzene, 1,000 pounds of brain-damaging mercury, and 25,000 pounds of toxic lead.



Source: Sierra Club

According to the Dept. of State Health Services, the hospital admission rates for **Pediatric & Adult Asthma in Dallas County** are significantly statistically higher than that for the State of Texas. **Ellis County** has significantly statistically higher **Pediatric Asthma rates** when compared to the state.



Air Toxics From Diesel Exhaust

Texas Consumes More Diesel Fuel Than Any Other State to Power:

On-Road Diesel Engines
- Light & Heavy Duty Trucks
- City Transit Buses
- Passenger Cars
- School Buses

Off-Road Diesel Engines
- Construction & Farm Equipment
- Prime & Standby Engines
- Marine Vessels
- Trains

Diesel particulate matter (DPM), otherwise known as soot, is the most deadly component of diesel exhaust.

DPM causes severe health problems because it is tiny, emitted at ground level, and impossible to avoid. The average human hair is 30 times larger than the largest fine particle, PM 2.5. These tiny particles pass easily through the throat and nose and into the lung tissue and bloodstream, carrying toxic substances with them.

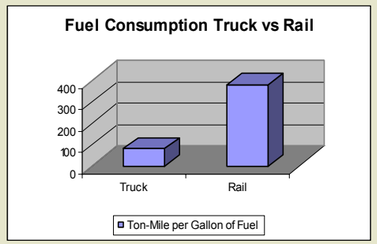
The average lifetime cancer risk from diesel soot for a resident of Tarrant County is 1 in 3,092. This risk is 323 times greater than EPA's acceptable cancer risk level of 1 in 1 million.

How Tarrant County Ranks Statewide & Nationally in Health Impacts from Diesel Fine Particles in 1999,
(Source: Clean Air Task Force, CATF)

DPM Risk Rank out of 254 TX counties	DPM Risk Rank out of 3,109 U.S. counties	County	Deaths	Non-Fatal Heart Attacks	Asthma Attacks	Chronic Bronchitis	Work Loss Days	Times Above EPA's Acceptable Cancer Level
1	14	Jefferson	59	58	1,029	29	5,863	865 X
2	17	Harris	295	368	9,791	250	57,645	742 X
5	102	Dallas	106	130	3,263	85	19,550	398 X
8	194	Tarrant	58	69	1,661	44	9,866	323 X
12	249	Travis	22	32	868	23	5,620	299 X
16	431	Bexar	50	62	1,313	35	7,467	257 X

The DFW area is a breeding ground for diesel traffic. Fortunately, there are options to reduce exposure to diesel emissions. The first chart shows how DPM is primarily emitted in densely populated areas. The second chart provides a reason to choose rail over trucks when hauling freight. The photograph illustrates that a diesel particulate filter (DPF) is over 90% effective in removing DPM from the exhaust of the retrofitted tractor on the left. Ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel in conjunction with DPFs on trucks, buses and heavy construction equipment is the best way to remove pollution from the millions of existing diesel engines.

Source: CATF



Source: Bureau of Transportation Statis-