



What You Can Do To Reduce Air Toxics

Organize or Join an Existing Local Organization

- Hold regular meetings and bring in speakers to talk about different issues, such as the Air Exchange created by the Galveston-Houston Association for Smog Prevention and Mother's for Clean Air

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

- Conduct a health survey in industrial neighborhoods
- 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
- Record a pollution log to keep track of pollution 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 Longview, Environmental Health: 903-237-1290

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Complaint Hotline: 1-888-777-3186

Environmental Protection Agency Hotline: 1-800-424-8802

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.

National Lead Information Center: 1-800-LEAD-FYI (532-3394)

Recorded message in Spanish & English. Will send safety information on lead upon caller's request.



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

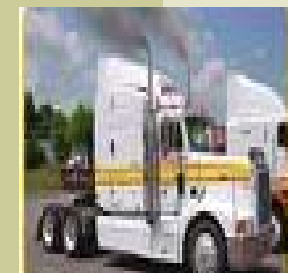


What are Air Toxics?

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.



Gregg County & Air Toxics



Regional Air Toxics Fast Facts:

- **Eastman Chemical Company** is the largest emitter of air toxics in the 4-county region. There are 19 schools within a 5-mile radius of the plant.
- In 2004, **La Gloria Refinery – now Delek Refining** – ranked #1 in the country for total releases of benzene, far exceeding releases from refineries with production capacities several times that of La Gloria.
- **Martin Lake and H.W. Pirkey Power Plants** together released nearly 240 tons of air toxics in 2005, including mercury – a known developmental toxicant – and pollutants that are suspected to be toxic to the neurological & respiratory systems.
- Both **Martin Lake and H.W. Pirkey Power Plants** are among the 10 worst in the nation for toxic mercury pollution.

Gregg County ranks 8th of all counties in the state as having the highest incidence rate for all cancers combined, 7th for incidence of lung & bronchus cancer, and 7th for breast cancer.

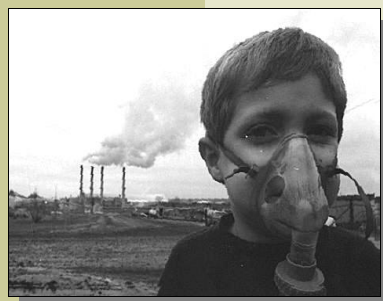
Source: National Cancer Institute, State Cancer Profiles, Incidence Rates Reports, rate period 2000-2002.

Gregg Co. Cancer Incidence Rates Statistically Significantly Higher than State Rates

Profile of Cancer Incidence (Top 5 Leading Types of Cancer)

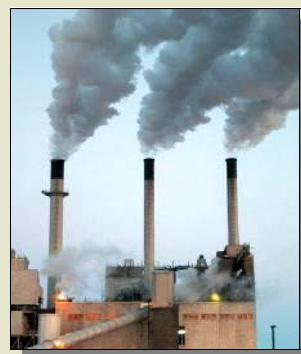
1999 through 2003	Male				Female			
	Cases	County Rate	State Rate	Cases	County Rate	State Rate		
Prostate	426	171.1*	149.9	Breast	502	161.2*	119.3	
Lung	368	153.3*	93.0	Lung	261	79.6*	51.1	
Colon & Rectum	200	84.8*	59.9	Colon & Rectum	205	61.1*	41.7	
Bladder	94	38.3*	29.9	Uterus	83	25.9*	18.8	
Kidney	70	28.1*	20.0	Kidney	59	18.5*	10.7	
All Sites	1,709	697.1*	542.4	All Sites	1,643	511.5*	389.5	

Rates are average annual rates per 100,000 population and are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. An asterisk appearing next to the county rate indicates that the rate is statistically significantly different from the state rate. Significance tests were not race-adjusted, therefore significant differences could be due to a different race/ethnic distribution in the county relative to the state. NHL=Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Source: DSHS Texas Cancer Registry 1995-2003 Incidence File as of 12/23/2005.



Source: Sierra Club

According to the TX Dept. of State Health Services, the hospital admission rates for **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, and Adult & Pediatric Asthma** in Gregg County are significantly statistically higher than those for the State of Texas.



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.

How Gregg 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	Times Above EPA's Acceptable Cancer Risk Level
1	14	Jefferson	865 X
2	17	Harris	742 X
5	102	Dallas	398 X
16	431	Bexar	257 X
31	995	Gregg	176 X
51	1,382	El Paso	143 X
67	1,609	Cameron	130 X

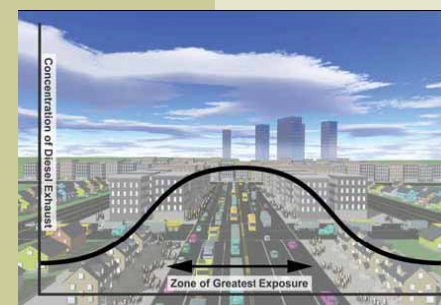
The average lifetime diesel soot cancer risk for a resident of Gregg County is 1 in 5,674. This risk is 176 times greater than EPA's acceptable cancer risk level of 1 in 1 million.

A Comparison of the Longview-Tyler Counties

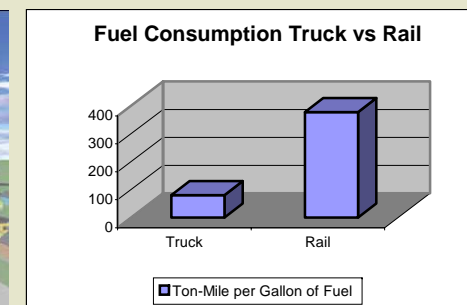
DPM Risk Rank out of 254 TX counties	DPM Risk Rank out of 3,109 U.S. counties	County
31	995	Gregg
41	1,270	Smith
88	1,862	Harrison
100	2,010	Rusk
103	2,031	Upshur

Fortunately, the Longview-Tyler area can reduce citizen exposure to diesel emissions.

The first chart shows how DPM primarily affects those living near highways. 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



Source: CATF