

## FACT SHEET THE AIR TOXICS STRATEGY

### What are air toxics?

Air toxics, which are also known as hazardous air pollutants (HAP), are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems, or cause adverse environmental and ecological effects. EPA is required by the Clean Air Act to address 188 toxic air pollutants. We are exposed to some of these pollutants often in the form of gasoline, dry cleaning chemicals, cleaning solvents, and paint strippers. A complete listing of the pollutants can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/188polls.html>.

### What has EPA done about air toxic emissions so far?

To date, EPA has issued 79 air toxic standards (covering 123 source categories) for many of the major industrial and commercial sources, including chemical plants, steel mills, as well as, some categories of smaller sources, like dry cleaners. When fully implemented, these standards should reduce air toxic emissions by almost a million tons per year. In addition, we have developed tighter standards for tailpipe emissions from cars and trucks, for refueling vehicles, and for substantially cleaner gasoline highway diesel fuel. In addition, diesel vehicles and most nonroad engines have been substantially redesigned to reduce emissions. The indoor environments program is of particular relevance to the Strategy because people in urban settings spend as much as 80% of their time indoors. EPA is currently developing an indoor air toxics strategy which will assess indoor air exposures and present next steps in our strategic approach, building upon the current information and relying heavily on voluntary, non-regulatory efforts to reduce risks from air toxics indoors.

### What is the Air Toxics Strategy?

Congress instructed EPA to develop a strategy for air toxics in urban areas that includes specific actions to address the large number of smaller, area sources, and that contains broader risk reduction goals encompassing all stationary sources. The Air Toxics Strategy is EPA's *integrated* framework for addressing air toxics in those urban areas by looking at stationary, mobile, and indoor source emissions. Air toxics can pose special threats in urban areas because of the large number of people and the variety of sources of toxic air pollutants, such as cars, trucks, large factories, gasoline stations, and dry cleaners. Individually, some of these sources may not emit large amounts of toxic pollutants. However, all of these pollution sources combined can potentially pose significant health threats, particularly to sensitive subgroups such as children and the elderly. We are also concerned about the impact of toxic emissions on minority and low-income communities, which are often located close to industrial and commercial urbanized areas.

## **What are the goals of the Air Toxics Strategy?**

We have three goals for the Strategy: 1) attain a 75% reduction in incidence of cancer attributable to exposure to HAPs emitted by large and small stationary sources nationwide; 2) attain a substantial reduction in public health risks (such as birth defects and reproduction effects) posed by HAP emissions from small industrial/commercial sources known as area sources; and 3) address disproportionate impacts of air toxics hazards across urban areas such as geographic “hot spots,” highly exposed population subgroups, and predominately minority and low-income communities.

## **What does the Air Toxics Strategy require?**

The Clean Air Act required EPA to identify a list of at least 30 air toxics that pose the greatest potential health threat in urban areas. As a result, EPA identified a list of 33 air toxics (see attached list) of the 188 toxic air pollutants. The Act also required EPA to identify and list the area source categories that represent 90% of the emissions of the 30 “listed” air toxics and subject them to standards. To date, we have identified 70 area source categories that contribute to the emissions of these 30 pollutants. Of those 70 categories, 14 have been regulated and the remaining are under development or will be developed in the future. The Strategy also identifies the need for further studies of mobile and indoor sources in urban environments.

## **What will we do to achieve our goals?**

We have and will continue to: 1) develop regulations addressing sources of air toxics at both the national and local levels; 2) initiate projects at both the national and local level to address specific pollutants (such as mercury) and to identify and address specific community risks (through pilot projects); 3) conduct air toxic assessments (including expanded air toxics monitoring and modeling) to identify areas of concern, to prioritize efforts to reduce risks, and to track progress; and 4) perform education and outreach to inform stakeholders about the Strategy and to get input into designing programs to implement it.

## **Who will be affected by the Air Toxics Strategy?**

The Strategy will cover most of our major metropolitan areas. EPA is making every effort to address the unique perspectives of the state, local, and tribal governments, public health groups, environmental justice communities, small business communities, and environmental interest groups. EPA feels that if the goals identified in the Strategy are to be achieved, partnerships and working relationships must be formed with these groups.

As a result, EPA is developing infrastructure and programs to address urban air toxics. To learn more about risks at local levels, we have become involved in community assessment and risk reduction projects by providing technical support, risk assessment tools, and supplemental funding to several existing, regionally led, community projects. In addition, to develop methods to characterize local risks (including indoor, stationary, and mobile sources) and to implement risk reduction measures, an

integrated effort is underway with the City of Cleveland, Ohio and various industry, citizen, and community groups. This project is a case example which we hope can be used for other urban air projects initiated throughout the Nation. EPA is also developing a framework of implementation options for state, local, and tribal air toxics programs to assist in their development.

**How can you get involved or find out more information?**

You'll find current information about the Air Toxics Strategy on our website at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/urban/urbanpg.html>. For more information contact Yvonne W. Johnson with the U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Emission Standards Division and can be reached at 919-541-2798 or [johnson.yvonnew@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.yvonnew@epa.gov).

### List of the 33 Urban Air Toxics HAPs

acetaldehyde	ethylene oxide
acrolein	formaldehyde
acrylonitrile	hexachlorobenzene
arsenic compounds	hydrazine
benzene	lead compounds
beryllium compounds	manganese compounds
1, 3-butadiene	mercury compounds
cadmium compounds	methylene chloride
carbon tetrachloride +	nickel compounds
chloroform	polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
chromium compounds	polycyclic organic matter (POM)
coke oven emissions +	quinoline
dioxin	1, 1, 2, 2-tetrachloroethane
ethylene dibromide +	perchloroethylene
propylene dichloride	trichloroethylene
1, 3-dichloropropene	vinyl chloride
ethylene dichloride	--

NOTE: A list of 33 urban HAPs which pose the greatest threats to public health in urban areas was listed in the 1999 Strategy. This list of HAPs considered the emissions from major, area and mobile sources. A subset of this list, 30 HAPs, represents the HAPs having the greatest emissions contribution from area sources. A cross (+) denotes the HAPs with less significant emissions contributions from area sources

## 70 Area Source Categories Subject to Standards

Acrylic Fibers/Modacrylic Fibers Production	Lead & Acid Battery Manufacturing
Ag Chemicals & Pesticides Manuf.	Medical Waste Incinerators*
Asphalt Processing & Asphalt Roofing Manufacturing	Mercury Cell Chlor-Alkali Plants
Autobody Refinishing Paint Shops	Misc. Organic Chemical Manuf. (MON)
Brick & Structural Clay	Municipal Landfills *
Carbon Black Production	Municipal Waste Combustors*
Chemical Manufacturing: Chromium Compounds	Nonferrous Foundries, nec.
Chemical Preparations	Oil & Natural Gas Production
Chromic Acid Anodizing*	Open Burning of Scrap Tires
Commercial Sterilization Facilities*	Other Solid Waste Incinerators (Human/Animal Cremation)
Copper Foundries	Paint Stripping Operations
Cyclic Crude & Intermediate Production	Paints & Allied Products Manufacturing
Decorative Chromium Electroplating*	Pharmaceutical Production
Dry Cleaning Facilities*	Plastic Parts & Products (surface coatings)
Electrical & Electronic Equipment: Finishing Operations	Plastic Materials and Resins Manufacturing
Fabricated Metal Products, nec.	Plating & Polishing
Fabricated Structural Metal Manuf.	Polyvinyl Chloride & Copolymers Production
Ferroalloys Production: Ferromanganese & Silicomanganese	Portland Cement Manufacturing*
Flexible Polyurethane Foam Fabrication Operations	Prepared Feeds Manufacturing
Flexible Polyurethane Foam Production	Primary Copper (not subject to Primary Copper Smelting MACT)
Fabricated Plate Work	Primary Metals Products Manufacturing

Gasoline Distribution (Stage I)	Primary Nonferrous Metals - Zinc, Cadmium and Beryllium
Halogenated Solvent Cleaners*	Pressed & Blown Glass & Glassware Manufacturing
Hard Chromium Electroplating*	Publicly Owned Treatment Works *
Hazardous Waste Incineration*	Secondary Aluminum Production*
Heating Equipment, except electric	Secondary Copper Smelting
Hospital Sterilizers	Secondary Lead Smelting*
Industrial Boilers	Secondary Nonferrous Metals
Industrial Inorganic Chemical Manufacturing	Sewage Sludge Incineration
Industrial Organic Chemical Manufacturing	Stationary Internal Combustion Engines
Industrial Machinery & Equipment: Finishing Operations	Synthetic Rubber Manufacturing
Inorganic Pigments Manufacturing	Stainless & Non-stainless Steel Manufacturing: Electric Arc Furnaces (EAF)
Institutional/Commerical Boilers	Steel Foundries
Iron Foundries	Valves & Pipe Fittings
Iron & Steel Forging	Wood Preserving

\* = 14 area source categories already subject to standards