

Glossary

Air toxics: Also known as toxic air pollutants, are 188 pollutants tracked by the EPA known or suspected to cause cancer, respiratory, reproductive and developmental problems.

Air Quality Index: An assessment that combines criteria pollutants into one value of air quality for each day of the year.

Benzene: A colorless volatile flammable toxic liquid used in organic synthesis, as a solvent, and as a motor fuel.

Blood lead level: The concentration of lead in a sample of blood. The concentration is expressed in micrograms per deciliter (ug/dL).

Body Mass Index (BMI): A method of estimating fitness based on a person's height and weight. $BMI = \text{weight in kilograms} / \text{height in meters}^2$.

Brownfields: Abandoned, idle, or underused industrial or commercial sites that raise concern in nearby community that any expansion or redevelopment could contaminate the environment.

Campylobacteriosis: An illness caused by bacteria that lives in the intestines of health birds that can make people ill if ingested.

Carbon monoxide: A colorless, odorless, poisonous gas produced by incomplete fossil fuel combustion.

Chloroform: A colorless volatile heavy toxic liquid with an ether odor used especially as a solvent or as a veterinary anesthetic.

Chromium: A heavy metal that can damage living things at low concentrations and tends to accumulate in the food chain.

Combined sewer overflow: Discharge of a mixture of storm water and domestic waste when the flow capacity of a sewer system is exceeded during rainstorms.

Community water system: A public water system that provides water to at least 15 service connections used by year-round.

Conditionally Exempt Generator: Any business that produces less than 2,200 pounds of hazardous waste, less than 2.2 pounds of acute hazardous waste, or less than 220 pounds of spilled hazardous waste per month. Conditionally exempt generators are not required by law to report their hazardous waste production.

Criteria pollutants: A set of six air pollutants which are known to be unhealthy at high levels or with prolonged exposure. Carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and lead. Major sources of criteria pollutants are vehicles - cars, trucks, ships and airplanes.

Cryptosporidium: A protozoan microbe associated with the disease cryptosporidiosis. The disease can be transmitted through ingestion of drinking water, person-to-person contact, or other pathways.

Cryptosporidiosis: A gastrointestinal illness caused by the cryptosporidium parasite.

E. coli: A bacteria commonly found in cattle. E. coli is also infrequently found in drinking water.

Environmental tobacco smoke: Smoke given off by cigarettes, pipes, or cigars to which nonsmokers can be exposed.

Foodborne illness: Infection caused by microbial or chemical contaminants in foods. Some foodborne illness can be caused by a single helping or less of a food that contains a contaminant. Other foodborne illnesses result from eating compounds in foods over a long periods of time.

Foodborne disease outbreak: The occurrence of two or more cases of the same illness among people from different households resulting from the ingestion of the same food.

Giardia lamblia: Protozoan in the feces of humans and animals that can cause severe gastrointestinal ailments. It is a common contaminant of surface waters.

Giardiasis: A gastrointestinal illness caused by the giardia parasite.

Hazardous substances: any substance that possesses properties that can cause harm to human health and ecologic systems.

Hazardous waste: Potentially harmful substances that have been released or discarded into the environment.

Health-based benchmark: Federal Clean Air Act guidelines based on a one in a million cancer risk for a specific air pollutant.

Healthy People 2010: A report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which provides 467 objectives in 28 focus areas to target national health improvement activities.

Household lead dust: Very fine particles containing lead that are usually caused by the deterioration of lead paint.

Indoor air quality: The overall state of the air inside a building as reflected by the presence of pollutants, such as dust, fungi, animal dander, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, and lead.

Large Quantity Generators: Any business that produces more than 2,200 pounds of hazardous waste, more than 2.2 pounds of acute hazardous waste, or more than 220 pounds of spilled hazardous waste per month.

Mixed use development: Land use development in which there are multiple uses: residential, retail, commercial, light industrial, entertainment, institutional.

Moderate physical activity: Activities that use large muscle groups and are at least equivalent to brisk walking. Activities may include walking swimming, cycling, dancing, gardening and yard work.

National Air Toxics Assessment: Provides risk estimates of hazardous air emissions for 32 of the most dangerous air toxics.

National Priorities List: EPA's list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term cleanup under Superfund.

Nonattainment area: A locality where air pollution levels persistently exceed EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Ozone: In the stratosphere ozone is a natural form of oxygen that provides a protective layer shielding the earth from ultraviolet radiation. In the troposphere (the layer extending up 7 to 10 miles from the earth's surface), ozone is a chemical oxidant and major component of smog.

Particulate matter: Fine liquid or solid particles such as dust, smoke, mist, fumes, or smog, found in air or emissions.

Pathogens: Microorganisms (e.g., bacteria, viruses, or parasites) that can cause disease in humans, animals and plants.

Physical activity: Bodily movement that is produced by the contraction of skeletal muscle and that substantially increases energy expenditure.

Radon: A colorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas found in some soils and rocks.

Recreational waters: Recreational water bodies include lakes, rivers, streams, and public swimming pools.

Salmonella: A bacteria that is frequently found in birds as well as other animals.

Secondhand smoke: A mixture of the smoke exhaled by smokers and the smoke that comes from the burning end of the tobacco product.

Sedentary lifestyle: A person who is relatively inactive and has a lifestyle characterized by a lot of sitting.

Small Quantity Generator: Any business that produces between 100 and 2,200 pounds of hazardous waste per month.

Solid waste: Common garbage or trash generated by industries, businesses, institutions, and homes.

Superfund: A program operated under the legislative authority of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) that funds and carries out EPA solid waste emergency and long-term removal or remedial activities. Superfund sites are uncontrolled or abandoned places where hazardous waste is located.

Toxic air pollutants (air toxics): EPA's list of 188 pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer, respiratory, reproductive and developmental problems.

Toxic Release Inventory: EPA's list of more than 600 designated chemicals that threaten health and the environment. Authorized under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986, this system requires manufacturers to report releases of these chemicals to EPA and State governments.

Vector borne diseases: Illnesses that are transmitted to people by organisms, such as insects.

Vector control: Control of any object, organism or thing that transmits disease from one host to another.

Vehicle Inspection Program: A vehicle emissions inspection program operated by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality in the Portland and Rogue Valley areas. The program is intended to reduce vehicle emissions.

Wastewater: The spent or used water from a home, community, farm, or industry that contains dissolved or suspended matter.

Waterborne disease outbreak: Incidents of infectious agents or chemical poisoning in which two or more people experience a similar illness after consumption or use of water and evidence implicates water as the source of illness.

Water quality limited: Recreational water bodies which do not meet federal Clean Water Act standards.

West Nile virus: A mosquito-borne disease new to the U.S. that was first identified in the eastern U.S. in 1999. Most people who become infected with West Nile virus will have either no symptoms or only mild ones. However, on rare occasions, West Nile virus infection can result in severe and sometimes fatal illnesses.

Work related injury (fatal or nonfatal): Any personal injury incurred by a worker while on or off the worksite but engaged in work-related activities. Work-related injuries may be unintentional or intentional (i.e. homicide or assault).