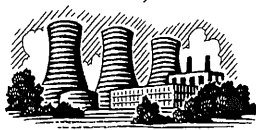


Air Pollution Fact Sheet

Citizens Against Toxic Exposure (CATE)

Pensacola, Florida



Escambia County

Important Facts

Escambia County ranks 16th of all 3,000+ U.S. counties in hazardous air emissions. According to EPA this county exceeds the emissions of 20 states. Escambia also ranks as one of the worst counties in the U.S. for releases of emissions known to cause cancer and reproductive problems.

What is air pollution?

The presence of contaminants or pollutant substances in the air that interfere with human health or welfare, or produce other harmful environmental effects.

What are the major sources of air pollution in Pensacola?

- Power plants
- Petroleum refineries
- Fertilizer manufacturers
- Industrial paper mills
- Iron and steel mills

What kinds of contaminants are emitted in the air?

Sulfur Dioxide

- Colorless gas with a pungent odor.
- Emissions from activities such as the burning of coal, copper smelting, and oil at power plants.

Nitrogen Oxide

- Mixture of gases that are composed of nitrogen and oxygen.

- Its uses include the production of nitric acid, lacquers, dyes, and other chemicals.

Hydrogen Sulfide

- Flammable, colorless gas with a characteristic odor of rotten eggs.

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)

- Made when coal, oil, gas, garbage, or tobacco is not burned completely.

Lead

- A highly toxic metal that was used for many years in products found in and around the home.

Mercury

- A naturally occurring element that is found in air, water and soil.
- Human activities include burning coal and using mercury to manufacture certain products.

Methanol

- A colorless liquid, completely miscible with water and organic solvents.
- A potent nerve poison.

How can this pollution affect your health?

- Eye and skin irritation, blurred vision
- Nausea and vomiting
- Dizziness, sleepiness, headaches
- Liver and/or Kidney damage
- Cancers
- Neurological and Respiratory damage

¹For more information, please contact Mrs. Francine Ishmael, President of CATE, at 850-478-5799 or at 6400 Marianna Dr. Pensacola, FL 32504

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Information taken from www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html & www.scorecard.org