



Toxic Times

A weekly recap of the top stories on toxics in Michigan and beyond.

News Highlights from November 24 – November 30, 2008

MICHIGAN NEWS

Toy safety remains the responsibility of Mr. and Mrs. Claus

The Bay City Times, Friday, November 28, 2008

Despite federal regulation passed this year regarding chemical regulation in toys, parents still shoulder the primary responsibility for the safety of holiday gifts.

http://blog.mlive.com/bcopinion/2008/11/toy_safety_remains_the_respons.html

River cleanup 'a big success': PCB removal nearly complete for 1.5-mile section of Kalamazoo River

The Kalamazoo Gazette, Wednesday, November 26, 2008

Within a few weeks, the first significant cleanup of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from the Kalamazoo River will be completed. This is the first major action to be done to the section of the river since the region was declared a Superfund site in 1990.

<http://www.mlive.com/kalamazoo/stories/index.ssf?/base/news-31/1227714610185360.xml&coll=7>

Ash landfills continue to stir debate

The Bay City Times, Wednesday, November 26, 2008

Two area landfills may be leaking more toxic chemicals—including arsenic, boron, and lithium—into the Saginaw Bay than originally reported. However, Department of Environmental Quality officials have declined to bring the subject back before the public.

http://blog.mlive.com/watershedwatch/2008/11/ash_landfills_continue_to_stir.html

NATIONAL NEWS

Calls for national infant formula recall spread

Associated Press, Friday, November 28, 2008

After disclosure that melamine and a byproduct of the chemical had been detected in the product of a major baby formula producer, consumers urge the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to issue a recall. The agency reiterated its statement that the chemical is safe in low doses.

http://www.ajc.com/health/content/health/stories/2008/11/28/infant_formula_recall.html

FDA sets melamine standard for baby formula

Associated Press via seattlepi.com, Saturday, November 29, 2008

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration set an acceptable level for the chemical additive melamine amid recent Chinese recalls and detection in U.S.-made product. Though no new studies have been released since the FDA stated it could not establish a limit in October, the federal agency claims that 1 ppm melamine in formula is not shown to have adverse effects.

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/1152ap_infant_formula.html

New E.U. law to require safer chemicals

American Public Media, Friday, November 28, 2008

A new law passed by the European Union may force American companies to produce safer chemicals. The REACH legislation required companies wishing to export to the EU to pre-register by December 1, 2008, and shifts the burden of proof of safety from the public to the producer.

<http://marketplace.publicradio.org/display/web/2008/11/28/reach/>

Secondhand toys shouldn't mean sacrificing safety

The Charleston Post and Courier, Thursday, November 27, 2008

With the economy in a recession and the holidays approaching, many consumers may turn to secondhand toys from thrift shops and online in order to save money. Consumer safety advocates caution consumers, warning that some of the products may have been issued recalls.

http://www.charleston.net/news/2008/nov/27/buyer_beware63170/

Milwaukee loses appeal in lead paint lawsuit

Associated Press via The Boston Globe, Tuesday, November 25, 2008

The city of Milwaukee lost an appeal in a lawsuit against a former lead paint manufacturer. The lawsuit would have required the company to pay for the cleanup of 11,000 properties (\$52.6 million).

http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2008/11/25/milwaukee_loses_appeal_in_lead_paint_lawsuit/

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pregnant women warned off make-up

The London Independent, Sunday, November 30, 2008

Mothers-to-be in the United Kingdom have been warned to avoid using make-up and hairspray after studies correlated increased use of such products with birth defects.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-wellbeing/health-news/pregnant-women-warned-off-makeup-1041649.html>