



# Toxic Times

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

News Highlights from October 5-11, 2008

## MICHIGAN NEWS

### **Tests show excess lead in Bay area drinking water**

*The Bay City Times*, Monday, October 6, 2008

The staff of Bay City's Water Treatment Plant recently collected samples from 69 residential sites throughout the city's connected water distribution system. The tests found 14 of the samples - 20 percent - exceeded recommended levels of lead allowed under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule.

[http://blog.mlive.com/bctimes/2008/10/tests\\_show\\_excess\\_lead\\_in\\_bay.html](http://blog.mlive.com/bctimes/2008/10/tests_show_excess_lead_in_bay.html)

## NATIONAL NEWS

### **Tunnels beneath Hudson River collect PCBs near GE**

*The Daily Gazette*, Sunday, October 5, 2008

Workers have drilled and blasted two enormous tunnels under the Hudson River in a project that is unique in the field of environmental cleanup work. The tunnels, each 1,800 feet long and 10 feet in diameter, under the river near the former Hudson Falls General Electric plant, will be used to collect PCBs before the toxic chemicals can seep up through the bedrock and into the river.

[http://www.dailygazette.com/news/2008/oct/05/1005\\_tunnelGE/](http://www.dailygazette.com/news/2008/oct/05/1005_tunnelGE/)

### **Why CDC Responded With 'Lack of Urgency' to Formaldehyde Warnings**

*ProPublica*, Sunday, October 5, 2008

The Centers for Disease Control study sounded reassuring when it was made public in 2007. Hurricane Katrina survivors didn't have to worry about reports that there were harmful levels of formaldehyde in their trailers. The air was safe to breathe and the contamination would not reach a "level of concern" as long as they kept the windows open. Today, senior CDC officials acknowledge that the study was based on a fundamental error.

<http://www.propublica.org/feature/formaldehyde/#When:00:01:00Z>

### **Tracking toxic textiles**

*The Philadelphia*, Monday, October 6, 2008

To the litany of tainted products from overseas - milk powder, toothpaste, dog food and toys - now add textiles. Medical complications from chemical additives to clothing and furniture are thought to be rare, but when they occur, it's the sort of thing that can literally make your skin crawl. And now the issue is getting scrutiny from folks who know a thing or two about textiles.

[http://www.philly.com/inquirer/magazine/20081006\\_Tracking\\_toxic\\_textiles.html](http://www.philly.com/inquirer/magazine/20081006_Tracking_toxic_textiles.html)

**Toxic dust findings concern Davenport residents, Cemex workers; more info sought**  
*Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Monday, October 6, 2008

Information released last week from the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District indicated high levels of a cancer-causing chemical agent known as chromium 6 has been detected at the elementary school and fire department. The levels of chromium 6 measured in Davenport were eight and 10 times higher than acceptable state standards, according to Ed Kendig of the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District.

[http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/ci\\_10652633](http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/ci_10652633)

**Plastics ingredient linked to smaller penises**

*Globe and Mail*, Tuesday, October 7, 2008

Exposure of expectant mothers to phthalates, a common ingredient in many plastics, has been linked to smaller penis size and incomplete descent of testicles in their baby boys, according to a new research paper that found the chemical also appears to make the overall genital tracts of boys slightly more feminine.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20081007.wlplastic07/BNStory/specialScienceandHealth/home>

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Guangzhou: toxins levels in 70% apartments excessive**

*Xinhua News Agency*, Wednesday, October 8, 2008

Researchers have discovered about 70 percent of apartments in Guangdong's provincial capital contained formaldehyde levels exceeding national standards, the Guangzhou Daily reported yesterday. On average, levels were 64.3 percent higher than the standard, it said.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-10/08/content\\_10163515.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-10/08/content_10163515.htm)

**Tests find toxic toys in stores across GTA**

*The Toronto Star*, October 4, 2008

Young children in the Greater Toronto Area are being sold toys, knick-knacks and glittering jewelry laced with dangerously high levels of lead.

<http://www.parentcentral.ca/parent/article/511758>