



Michigan Network for
CHILDREN'S
Environmental
HEALTH

Toxic Times

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

News Highlights from January 5, 2010 – January 18, 2010

MICHIGAN NEWS

Toxic Toys

Michigan Radio, Friday, January 15, 2010

The safety of toys generates a lot of discussion during the holidays but even though they are over it's important to continue to be careful. The Ecology Center of Ann Arbor continues to offer free toy testing throughout the area. Xray technology is used to screen hazardous chemicals that may be in the toys.

<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/michigan/news.newsmain/article/0/1/1600241/Michigan.News/Toxic.Toys>

Focus on Michigan

Safer States, Friday, January 8, 2010

Michigan is starting 2010 with an agenda emphasizing the protection of both children and adults from toxic chemicals. The toxics policy approach for the next legislative session will focus on protecting children from toxic toys and protecting children and adults from toxic flame-retardants.

<http://www.saferstates.com/2010/01/michigan.html>

EPA, Michigan sign order on dioxin cleanup plan

The Associated Press, Friday, January 15, 2010

The U.S. EPA and the State of Michigan have signed an administrative order for the planned cleanup of dioxin contamination near Dow Chemical Co. plant in Midland, MI. The plan outlines the steps to evaluate the contamination and identify cleanup options.

<http://www.dailyfinance.com/article/epa-michigan-sign-order-on-dioxin/858560>

NATIONAL NEWS

Push is on to improve U.S. chemical safety laws: Agencies lead drive

The Nation's Health, Tuesday, January 5, 2010

Recent studies are further confirming that the U.S. chemical safety laws are failing to keep us safe. Momentum to overhaul the nations 33-year-old Toxic Substances Control Act is growing. The EPA recently released a set of six principles to reform laws and strengthen the EPA's ability to protect the public. The administrator of the EPA, Lisa Jackson, has also publicly stated that reforming chemical management is one of her top priorities. Since TSCA's adoption in 1976, only five chemicals have become subjected

to the law's regulation. There are more than 80,000 chemicals now used in the U.S. and the EPA has only been able to require testing on 200 of those.

<http://thenationshealth.aphapublications.org/content/39/10/1.2.full>

What the EPA's "Chemicals of Concern" Plans Really Mean

Scientific American, Monday, January 11, 2010

For the first time since TSCA was passed in 1976, the EPA has made a move to further restrict chemicals in the US. The EPA announced that it will establish a "chemicals of concern" list and action plans that could end up restricting four types of synthetic chemicals commonly used in manufacturing and consumer products.

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=epa-chemicals-of-concern-plans>

Toxic Metal in Kids' Jewelry from China

Detroit Free Press, Sunday, January 10, 2010

As a result of lead being barred from using lead in children's jewelry, some Chinese manufacturers have resorted to using the dangerous heavy metal cadmium as a replacement in products being sold throughout the United States. The piece analyzed in a lab was found to contain 91% cadmium by weight.

<http://www.freep.com/article/201001101918/BUSINESS07/100110015>

Cadmium in Kids' Jewelry: 3 Ways to Stay Safe

US News and World Report, Thursday, January 14, 2010

After a federal ban on lead in charms and jewelry went into effect last year children's jewelry was supposed to be safer. However, it's not illegal to make children's products with cadmium despite its danger. Recently the Consumer Product Safety Commission has launched a probe into cadmium-tainted products. But in the meantime, there are three ways to help keep your child safe.

<http://www.usnews.com/health/blogs/on-parenting/2010/01/14/cadmium-in-kids-jewelry-3-ways-to-stay-safe>

FDA says it's unable to regulate BPA

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Sunday, January 17, 2010

The FDA has declared the chemical BPA as unsafe for fetuses, babies, and young children but due to a quirk in federal laws, it cannot be regulated. The FDA recently reversed their position that said BPA was safe. It has been found in the urine of 93% of Americans.

<http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/watchdogreports/81901927.html>

Common chemical may affect liver at low levels

Reuters, Wednesday, January 13, 2010

A new study shows that a chemical commonly found in the environment and human blood may affect the liver. The chemical called perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) is used in several manufacturing processes due to its fire resistance and water, stain, and grease repellency. Research shows this chemical is persistent in the environment and may get into humans through contaminated water, dust, and food.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE60C4JM20100113?sp=true>

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Elevated amount of BPA can increase cardiac risk by 45%, study finds

Globe and Mail, Tuesday, January 12, 2010

A new study has linked elevated levels of BPA to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. BPA has been designated as a toxic compound by Health Canada and has been removed from plastic baby bottles but is still used as a liner in most food and beverage cans in Canada. The study revealed that 60-year-old American men who had the highest amounts of BPA in their urine had a 45% greater risk of cardiovascular disease than men of the same age who had lower levels of BPA.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health/low-amount-of-bpa-can-increase-cardiac-risk-by-45-per-cent-study-finds/article1428929/>

NEWSLETTERS FROM MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Healthy Children Project Monthly e-news
Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan
January 2010

<http://ldaofmichigan.org/healthychildnews.htm>.

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The Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health is a coalition of health professionals, health-affected groups, environmental organizations, and others dedicated to a safe and less toxic world for Michigan's children. Through education, outreach, and advocacy, we seek to protect Michigan's children from adverse impacts caused by exposure to widespread hazardous chemicals. Please visit: www.mnceh.org.