



Toxic Times

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

News Highlights from March 11, 2009 – March 17, 2009

MICHIGAN NEWS

Detroit aims to stop burning its trash

The Detroit News, Saturday, March 14, 2009

The city of Detroit is trying to avoid sending its waste to an incinerator, as residents of the area fear the consequences on their health. However, the decision may not be entirely up to them.

<http://www.detroitnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090314/METRO01/903140399/1409/METRO>

Essexville plant reports sewage overflow

The Bay City Times, Wednesday, March 11, 2009

The Essexville Wastewater Treatment Plant reported a discharge of 1.3 million gallons of combined sewage after stormwater caused an overflow from its retention basin.

http://blog.mlive.com/watershedwatch/2009/03/essexville_plant_reports_sewag.html

NATIONAL NEWS

U.S. lawmakers move to ban BPA from food, beverage containers

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Friday, March 13, 2009

Bills planned to be introduced into both the House and Senate aim to ban the chemical bisphenol A from containers for foods and beverages. While many groups applaud the intention, some scientists feel that it may not be enough.

<http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/watchdogreports/41215752.html>

Group finds carcinogens in kids' bath products

USA Today, Thursday, March 12, 2009

The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics has released a report that found formaldehyde and 1,4-dioxane, both probably human carcinogens according to the EPA, in a variety of children's cosmetic products. Industry spokespeople claim that the products are safe and that the current formulas prevent microbial growth in the products.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-03-12-formaldehyde_N.htm

Reporting rules for chemical releases toughened

The Washington Post, Tuesday, March 12, 2009

A relatively unnoticed provision in the spending bill signed by President Obama repeals a Bush administration action that weakened the degree to which industries had to provide chemical release information.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/11/AR2009031103852.html>

Agency to improve reporting of neighborhood toxics

The Associated Press via The Miami Herald, Thursday, March 12, 2009

Howard Frumkin, director of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, claimed that his agency will be reviewing its mission and operations after the federal agency came under fire from Congress, scientists, and communities accusing it of inadequate performance.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/living/health/healthAP/story/946183.html>

Low-level ozone exposure found to be lethal over time

The Los Angeles Times, Thursday, March 12, 2009

It has been known for a while that acute exposure to high levels of ozone can yield adverse health effects, including heart attacks and enhanced symptoms from asthma. However, a new 18-year study has linked chronic exposure to low-level ozone concentrations to potentially lethal occurrences, as well.

http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-sci-ozone12-2009mar12_0,2086958.story

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

A range of possible futures for mercury emissions

Environmental Science & Technology, Wednesday, March 11, 2009

A research team used scenarios from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to create an estimated range of changes in mercury emissions by 2050. Depending on technology and socioeconomic developments, the mercury emissions are thought to change somewhere between -4 and +96 percent.

<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/es900606v>

Bottled water may contain 'hormones'

Science News, Thursday, March 12, 2009

Research from Frankfurt, Germany, suggests that estrogen-mimicking chemicals may leach out of plastic water bottles and into the liquids they contain. The research found similar results in glass water bottles, suggesting that the water maybe tainted at some other point in processing.

http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/41706/title/Bottled_water_may_contain_%E2%80%98hormones%E2%80%99_Glass

Scots scientists say wearing a mask in traffic reduces heart attack risk

The Edinburgh Scotsman, Friday, March 13, 2009

Researchers have found that fumes from traffic emissions can stiffen arteries, increasing blood pressure and risk of a heart attack. By wearing a face mask, the impacts of the fumes were reduced by up to 98 percent during the experiment.

<http://news.scotsman.com/environment/Scots-scientists-say-wearing-a.5068785.jp>

Growing pollution leads to global dimming: study

Reuters, Thursday, March 12, 2009

Air pollution, particularly aerosols, is responsible for reducing visibility on clear days, according to new reports. Since 1975, visibility has decreased in South America, Australia, Asia, and Africa, while remaining stable in North America and improving in Europe.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/scienceNews/idUSTRE52B6VT20090312>

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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. Visit: www.mnceh.org.