

## Health Effects of Asphalt – Internet Search

### General Comments:

- It is universally agreed that exposure to chemicals in asphalt causes cancer in animals;
- Studies on humans are inconclusive, need long term studies, just as now everyone agrees tobacco causes cancer;
- There is a growing list of scientific papers that conclude exposure to hot asphalt emissions can significantly increase the incidence of cancers above background;
- All agree that asphalt fumes contain strongly carcinogenic materials (PAHs); disagreement is over level of exposure that causes a public health risk. No such thing as a 'safe' level of benzene', (Kunda Park Neighbours).

### Key Issues:

- Temperature inversion – trapping of pollutants in the air around us to levels 1000s of times above normal;
- Fugitive emissions – those chemicals emitted from trucks and moving asphalt – not measured or calculated, but very important, in addition to emissions from the plant itself;
- Asphalt cutting, (mixing), solvents – benzene, dioxane, or toluene – all dangerous to health;
- Amounts of pollutants estimated by computers, mathematical formulas, not actual testing;
- Asphalt plants are fire-prone, emitting vast amounts of toxic pollutants.

### Websites

[www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2001-1101](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2001-1101)

Health Effects of exposure to asphalt – NIOSH

[www.OSHA.gov](http://www.OSHA.gov)

Exposure to asphalt fumes can cause serious injury and permanent damage. Specific health effects listed.

[Cameogarrett.blogspot.com/](http://Cameogarrett.blogspot.com/)

Wed. Sept. 12, 2007 – son sick because of fumes

\*\*\* [sites.google.com/site/./asphalt-plants-benzene-and-cancer](http://sites.google.com/site/./asphalt-plants-benzene-and-cancer)

[www.afscme.org/issues/1363.cfm](http://www.afscme.org/issues/1363.cfm)

Remember 'legal does not mean safe'. Asphalt cutting solvents, benzene, dioxane, toluene.

\*\*\* [www.besafenet.com](http://www.besafenet.com) - lists effects of specific chemicals in asphalt and possible health effects.

\*\*\* [www.bredl.org](http://www.bredl.org) Blue Ridge Defense League, North Carolina – studies on health impact and property values.

[www.nysdot.gov/divisions/operating/em](http://www.nysdot.gov/divisions/operating/em)

- Excess heating of asphalt produces more harmful emissions.

\*\*\* [barkeyvilleborough.com/pollution.html](http://barkeyvilleborough.com/pollution.html)

Increased risks if old tires recycled into asphalt.

<http://igitur-archivelibrary.uunl/diddertations/19578..>

[www.jea.com/about/pub/downloads/byproducts'MSDS-LimestoneRockAsphalt.pdf](http://www.jea.com/about/pub/downloads/byproducts'MSDS-LimestoneRockAsphalt.pdf)

MSDS on Limestone Rock Asphalt.

<http://worldcat.org/ibsn/1895102286>

- Include a couple of Canadian references.

Conclusions:

- Call for a moratorium on asphalt plants where people live and go to school;
- Have stricter testing and enforcement of air quality standards;
- Improve air standards to address all toxic emissions including fugitive emissions;
- No one has proved an asphalt plant is safe for nearby children;

'Better Safe Than Sorry'