



Name that Environmental Hazard

Carbon monoxide _____

Lead _____

Asbestos _____

Mercury _____

Arsenic _____

Toxic Air Pollutants _____

- A. Occurs naturally in the air and soil. Exposure can cause changes in personality and mental ability – “Mad as a Hatter”
- B. Naturally found in rock and soil, found in old ceilings and floor, increases risk of lung cancer
- C. Lack of oxygen to the brain
- D. Can cause liver and kidney disease in children. Previously found in paint.
- E. Occurs naturally in rock and soil. Exposure typically occurs through drinking water and can cause skin damage
- F. Suspected to cause cancer or be harmful to the environment. The majority come from man-made sources

Background information on the environmental hazards

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas. It can be found in traffic exhaust. Carbon monoxide prevents your red blood cells from carrying oxygen.

Lead is a heavy metal that can be found in old paint and very old metal toys. Lead poisoning has very few obvious physical symptoms, but can result in nerve damage and problems with vision and hearing in adults. In children, lead poisoning can result in liver and kidney damage, as well as cause problems with hearing.

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lead/health.htm>

Arsenic has no scent and no taste. It is found in rock and soil, and from there enters rivers and wells. Arsenic can be used to create paints and dyes and is currently used to treat lumber. High exposure to arsenic can cause skin damage.

Source: <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/basicinformation/arsenic.cfm>

Mercury is found naturally in the air, water and soil. In solid form, mercury is a shiny and silver. At room temperature it is a liquid. When heated, it is a colorless, odorless gas. In the 1800's mercury was used to make felt hats.

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/mercury/about.htm>

Asbestos is found naturally in rock and soil. It was once used as a fire retardant and in building construction materials. It is often found in the ceilings of old buildings in the United States. Exposure to asbestos can increase your risk of developing lung cancer, especially in cigarette smokers.

Source: <http://www2.epa.gov/asbestos/learn-about-asbestos>