



WARNING: The Surgeon General recommends you breathe air. *However*, breathing *polluted air* in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area is potentially hazardous to your health. Proven side effects to breathing dirty air include:

Heart Attacks, Cancer,
Male Infertility, Low Birth
Weights, *Miscarriages,*
Birth Defects,
Genetic Mutations,
and oh yeah, **EARLY DEATH.**

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Air Pollution It's not just for Asthma Anymore

There's a well-established link between air pollution and asthma. But did you know that breathing dirty air can make you infertile, give you cancer, cause a heart attack or stroke?

Scientists have linked breathing bad air to many new harmful health effects never before associated with exposure to air pollution.

Moreover, these harmful effects seem to occur at levels of pollution found frequently in DFW during "ozone season" - from Spring until early Fall when higher temperatures mix with air pollution to produce the worst smog.

There's also lots of evidence to show how poisonous air harms developing fetuses and



children. It can cause miscarriages, low birth weights, genetic mutations and birth defects. Air pollution can actually damage a baby's DNA, similar to the effects of a mother smoking during pregnancy,

Children breathe many more gallons of air per day than adults, so they're exposed to much more pollution. Dirty air can slow development and permanently damage a child's lungs.

DFW air routinely ranks among the most polluted in the US annually. More people die from breathing dirty air here than in drunk driving accidents.

The last government plan to clean up DFW's air was supposed to make things better. It hasn't. 2005 was the worst year for air pollution violations since 1999.

Maybe you thought air pollution was only a problem for people who already use inhalers. It isn't. Everybody who breathes dirty air in DFW is at risk. Everybody.

THE GOOD NEWS: There's going to be a new plan to clean up the air in DFW

Most smog in DFW is caused by cars and trucks. But a lot is also caused by industry, and lots of other large and small sources.

In 2000, local and state officials wrote a State Implementation Plan, or "SIP" that was supposed to cut DFW smog. It ignored major industries and concentrated on individual drivers. It failed.

Now, the same state and local government officials that wrote the last clean air plan are writing a new one. DFW citizens must take a more active role in shaping how this clean air plan works. If we don't, we pay a very high price for its failure.

There is a lot of pressure from industry not to reduce pollution from the cement plants in Midlothian or upwind power plants. Citizens need to act as a counterweight to that pressure so that ALL sources of smog are targeted fairly. No more free rides for industry as drivers bear the burden.

If you live in Collin, Denton, Dallas, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall or Tarrant County, your County Judge or Commissioner sits on the North Texas Clean Air Steering Committee. This Committee is the primary decision-making body for the first draft of a new DFW regional clean air plan, a new "SIP."

THE BAD NEWS: The government is writing it

By February of 2006, the Committee is scheduled to send its plan to Austin, where citizens generally have less influence, so we don't have much time.

Please contact your County Judge and urge him or her to support an aggressive clean air plan. One that targets the cement plants and power plants. One that more evenly spreads the responsibility of cleaning up the air. One that actually succeeds.

if you breathe DFW air, you should be working to make sure it won't kill you or make you sick. We're here to help you. Call or write us and find out more about how you can help breathe easier.