

Community concern or issue: *Hazardous Air Pollutants* from local industries

How does this issue impact citizen health or the environment?

Hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) are chemicals which can cause adverse effects to human health or the environment. Congress has identified more than 188 of these pollutants, including substances that cause cancer, or have neurological, respiratory, and reproductive effects. In most areas of the country, high concentrations of HAPs are primarily due to pollution sources like trucks or small businesses that have not had the same regulatory scrutiny as large industrial facilities. Moreover, a very small number of chemicals and chemical categories appear to account for the majority of health risks associated with hazardous air pollutants—in particular, diesel emissions from vehicles and equipment.

Existing controls or standards

The Kansas Air Quality Act has requirements for air pollution sources. An air operating permit is needed if a business has the potential to emit (PTE) annually—

- 10 tons or more of any HAP as defined in the federal Clean Air Act
- 25 tons or more of any combination of HAPs
- 100 tons or more of any other regulated air pollutants including nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur oxides (SO_x), particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM₁₀), volatile organic compounds (VOC), and carbon monoxide (CO)

A business is considered a major source if its PTE exceeds these thresholds. If its PTE or actual emissions are below these thresholds, the business is considered a minor source.

How is this issue impacting our community?

Of the numerous businesses in Salina, only three have annual reported releases of HAPs, as defined by the Clean Air Act. These HAPs are emitted in quantities that define the businesses as minor sources of HAPs. Nationally, just eight chemicals in the air account for 99% of estimated cancer risks. None of these chemicals were emitted by the three Salina facilities.

What factors and behaviors contribute to this problem?

It appears from the data available that the community does not have a problem with air emissions from the regulated local industries.

Potential solutions—how can the community help with this issue?

One pollutant—diesel emissions—accounts for almost 80% of the estimated lifetime cancer risk associated with outdoor hazardous air pollutant exposures. It would appear this is a greater area of concern than industrial air emissions. (See Salina CARE issue paper on diesel emissions.)

NOTE: This fact sheet was taken from an issue paper developed by Barb Johnson.
The detailed fact sheet can be accessed at www.sbeap.org/CARE