

AFOEM Annual Training Meeting
11–13 May 2018
Sydney, Australia



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Australasian Faculty of
Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Health Surveillance

Presentation by Dr Kelvin Wooller at the AFOEM Annual Training Meeting on Saturday 12th May 2018

Session Description

This presentation is designed to provide guidance in the conduct of health surveillance programs in an occupational setting.

Local and international standards and guidelines for Biological Monitoring (also known as Biomonitoring) will be noted.

Environmental issues will be discussed.

Learning Objectives

- Define biological monitoring and its relationship to environmental monitoring (workplace and community).
- Identify sources of occupational exposure standards and guidelines for biological monitoring.
- Understand the dose/response concept.
- Appreciate the practical aspects of specimen collection
- Ensure that understandable advice on the significance of the results of biological monitoring is given to both workers and management.

Health Surveillance

Part 1 Resources and Basic Principles

Keeping your Knowledge Current

- Know your information resources
- Credible quick response to queries from
 - Worker, Union, Management, Community
 - Government
 - Medical Defence
 - ‘Fake News’



Sign protesting use of toxic "Corexit" chemical dispersant in the BP Gulf of Mexico oil disaster

Management of Worker Exposure

- According to the Deepwater Horizon Response Unified Command's website, as of June 14, 2010, over 1,262,000 gallons of dispersants had been used as part of BP's oil spill clean up efforts
- Risk
 - Human
 - Environment



Safety and Health Awareness for Oil Spill Cleanup Workers



Free Download [PDF]

MSDS for Corexit 9500A [PDF]
MSDS Corexit 9527A [PDF]

Online Searching

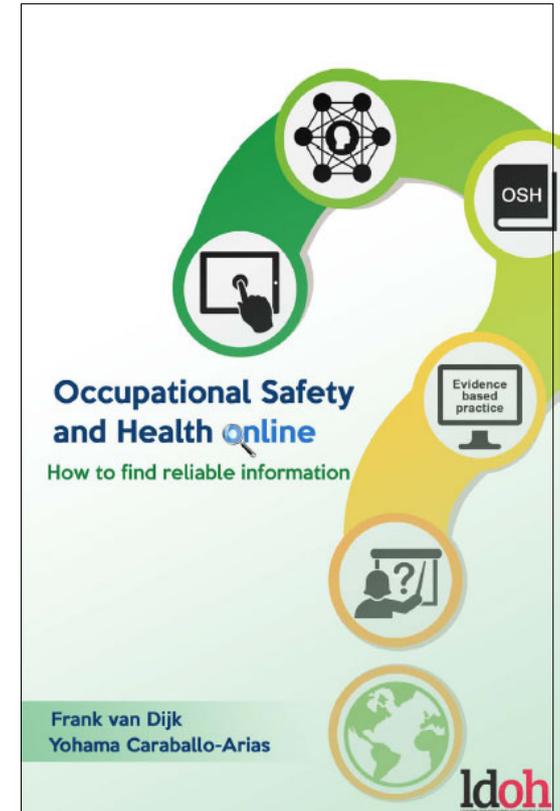
Occupational Safety and Health online How to find reliable information

Third edition
2016

Free PDF
<http://www.ldoh.net/>

“carefully written, comprehensive and up-to-date book on how to find reliable occupational health and safety information online”.

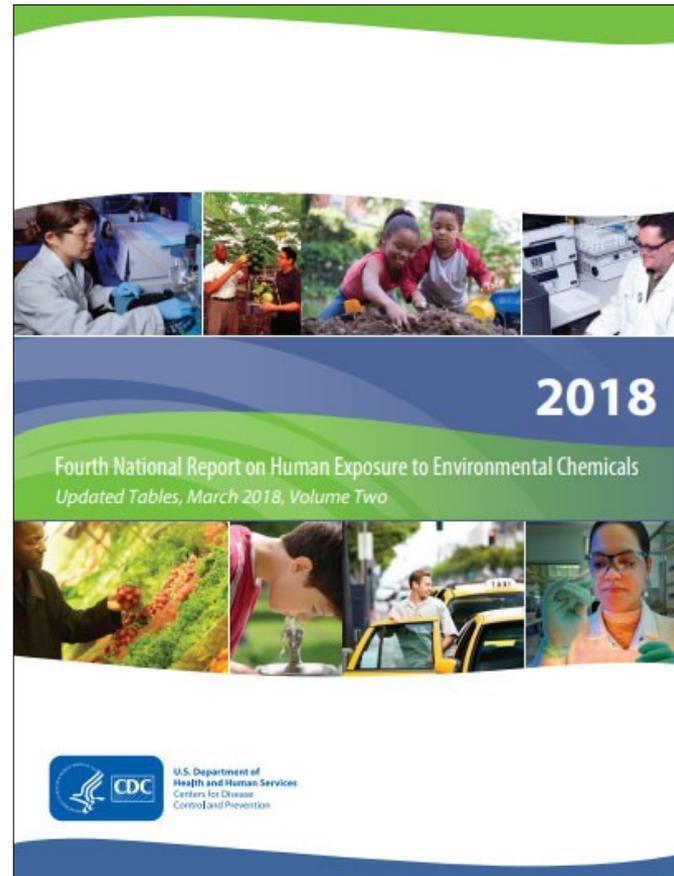
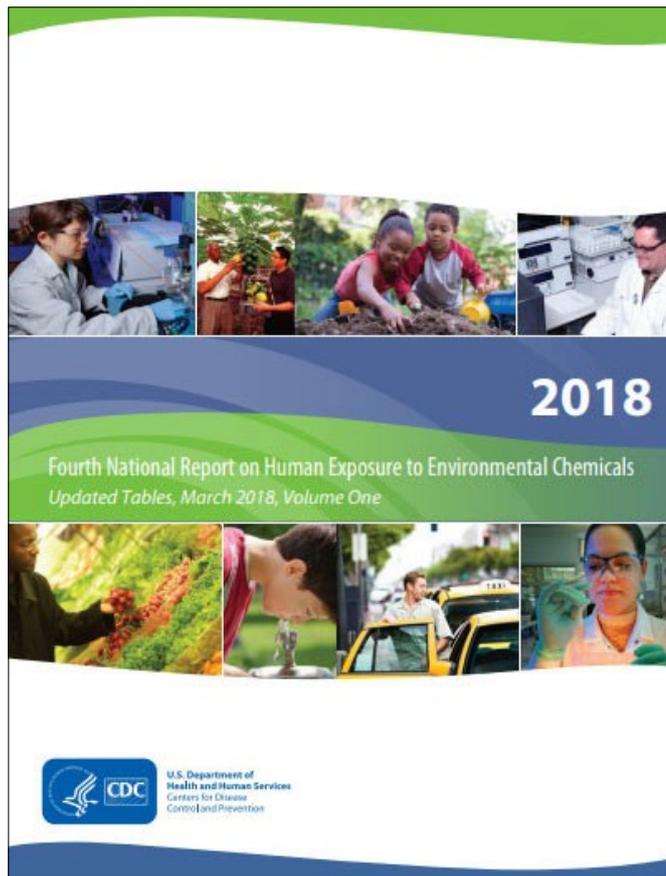
Reviewed in Occupational Medicine February 2018



Useful Environmental Resources

- **Fourth National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals**
- **Updated Tables March 2018**

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Environmental Health



Useful Literature Resources



Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM)

Perspective
USA
Wellness



Occupational
Medicine
Forum

Available
Print
Online

January 16, 2018

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE **Science IN THE News** The latest news in occupational medicine from ACOEM

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U.S. HealthWorks MEDICAL GROUP A Dignity Health Member JOIN A FAST-GROWING NATIONAL LEADER in occupational medicine and urgent care. LEARN MORE

Biomarkers of oxidative stress in electroplating workers exposed to hexavalent chromium

PubMed

This study evaluates levels of biomarkers of oxidative DNA damage and lipid peroxidation in 105 male workers at 16 electroplating companies who had been exposed to hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI)). The study participants were 230 non-smoking male workers, comprising 105 electroplating workers who had been exposed to chromium and 125 control subjects who performed office tasks. Personal air samples, spot urine samples, hair samples, fingernail samples and questionnaires were used to quantify exposure to Cr(VI), oxidative DNA damage, lipid peroxidation and environmental pollutants.

[READ MORE](#)

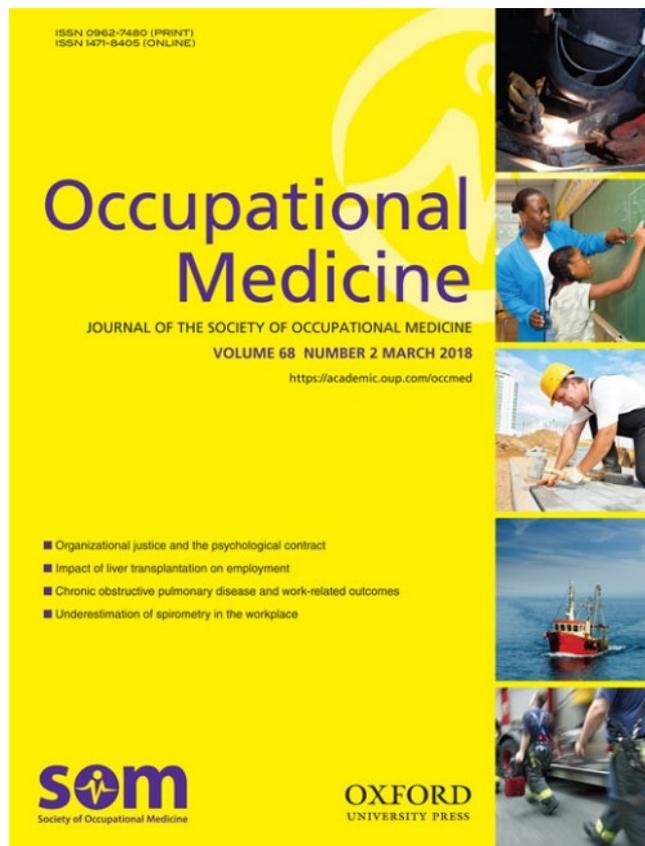
Useful Literature Resources



**Journal of the
Society of
Occupational
Medicine**

**Perspective
European
Australian**

Case Reports



**Available
Print
Online**

**Discount
AFOEM**

Useful Literature Resources



Literature Search



28 million citations biomedical literature

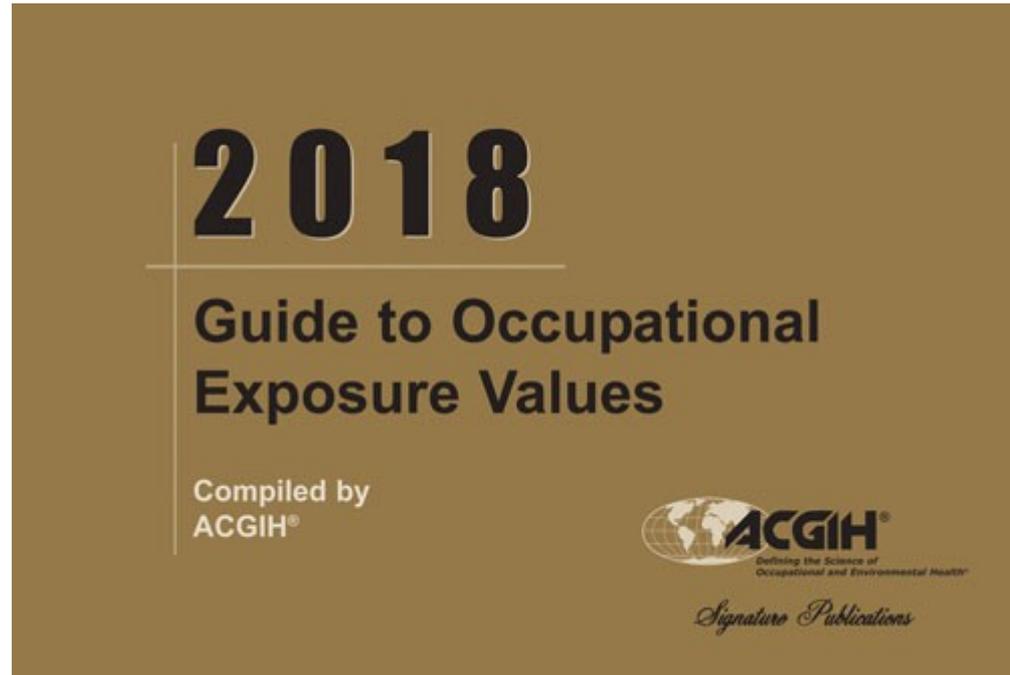
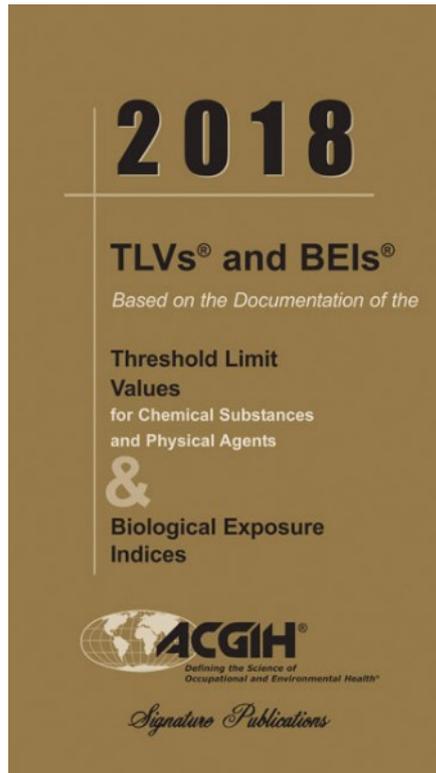


Reading Room

Useful Biological Monitoring Resources



American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists



Hard Copy Only

Useful Biological Monitoring Resources

- **Quick reference resource**
- Practical guidance on the selection and interpretation of tests
- Recommendation on best test
- Referenced
- Print or **download**

Edited by Harold E Hoffman, MD,
Scott D Phillips, MD and Robert B Palmer, PhD
OEM Press 2012

CLINICAL PRACTICE OF BIOLOGICAL MONITORING

HAROLD E. HOFFMAN, MD FRCPC FACOEM
ROBERT B. PALMER, PHD DABAT FAACT
SCOTT PHILLIPS, MD FACP FACMT FAACT

Useful Biological Monitoring Resources

German Research Foundation

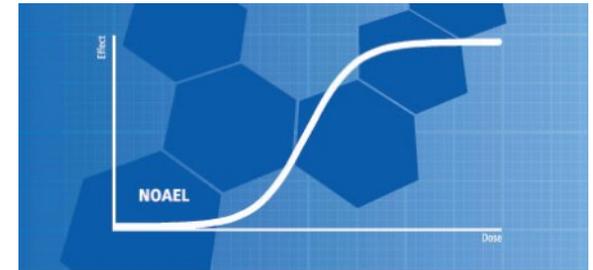
List of MAK and BAT Values 2017

Guidance on Significance and Use of MAK and BAT values

Most comprehensive listings

Includes rationale

Free Download
Wiley Online Library



List of MAK and BAT Values 2017

Permanent Senate Commission
for the Investigation of Health Hazards
of Chemical Compounds in the Work Area

Report 53

WILEY-VCH

DFG

Author(s):Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

Useful Biological Monitoring Resources

- General Biological Monitoring
- Specific Exposures
 - Inorganic lead
 - Metallic mercury
 - Inorganic arsenic
 - Thallium
 - ACGIH BEIs

Department of Consumer and Employment Protection
Government of Western Australia 2008



Useful Occupational Resources

safe work australia

**Hazardous Chemical Information System
(HCIS)**

Search Hazardous Chemicals
HSIS Consolidated List

**GUIDANCE ON THE INTERPRETATION
OF WORKPLACE EXPOSURE
STANDARDS FOR AIRBORNE
CONTAMINANTS**

APRIL 2013

**HEALTH MONITORING
FOR EXPOSURE TO
HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS**
GUIDE FOR MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

FEBRUARY 2013

Useful Occupational Resources

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)



Global Asbestos Awareness Week

Information and resources for workers occupationally exposed to asbestos

Useful Occupational Resources



California Department of Public Health Occupational Health Branch

- Many publications for workers and employers with emphasis on hazards in **agriculture**
- Pesticide Illness Presentation for Physicians
(with Speaker Notes) (2004)



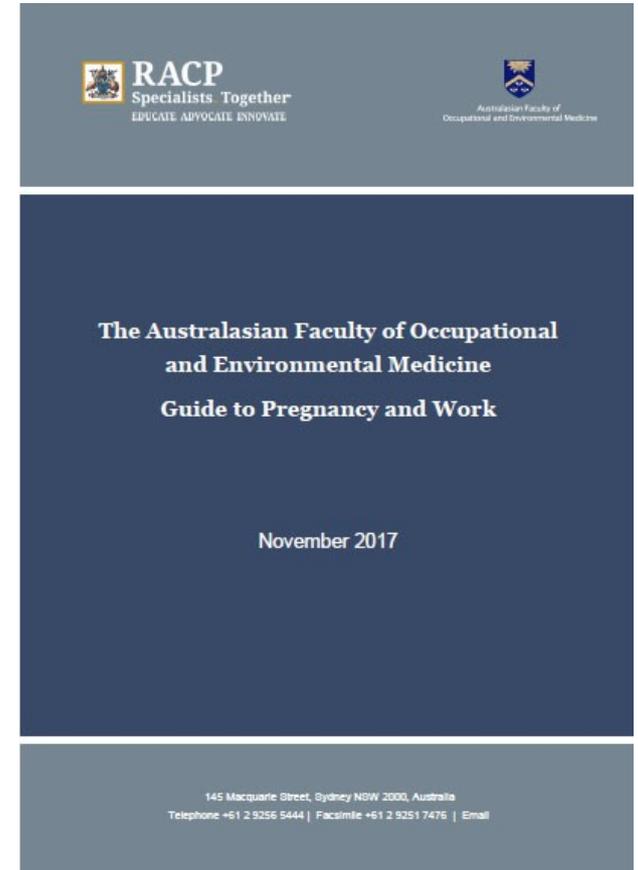
Useful Occupational Resources

- **Guide to Pregnancy and Work**

- Advice for Pregnant Employees
 - Potential Workplace Hazards
 - Risk Assessment
 - Pregnancy Policies in the Workplace
- AFOEM 2017

- **Reproductive and Developmental Hazard Management**

ACOEM Guidance Statement 2016



Useful Occupational Resources

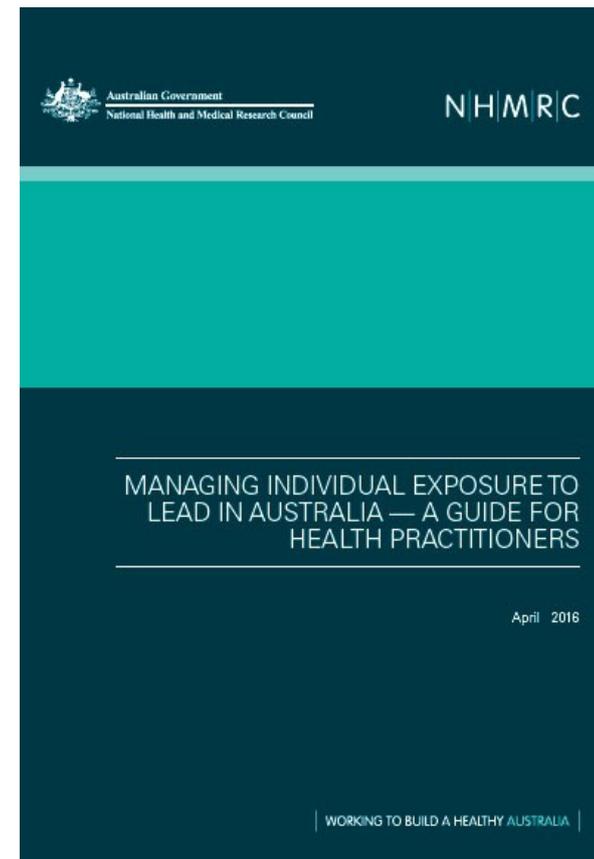
- **Managing Individual Exposure to Lead in Australia – A Guide for Health Practitioners**

- Lead exposure - Health effects
- Blood lead levels - Testing, managing, prevention

National Health and Medical Research Council 2016

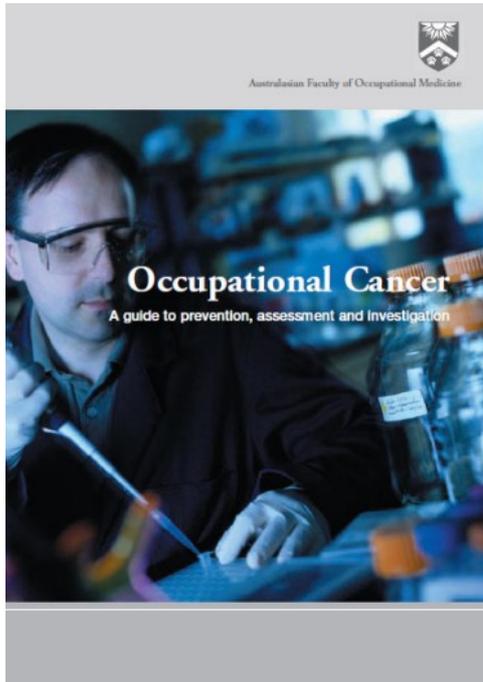
- **Workplace Lead Exposure**

ACOEM Position Statement 2016

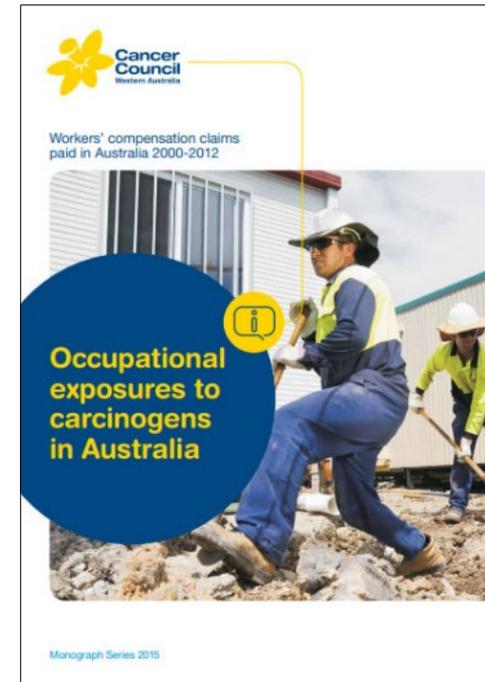


Useful Occupational Resources

- Cancer Epidemiology including Clusters



The Australasian Faculty of Occupational Medicine
May 2003

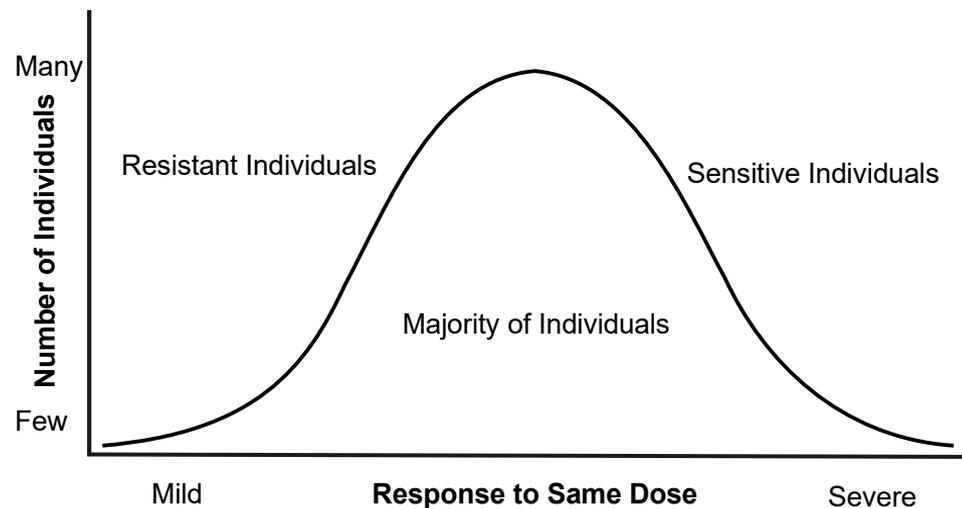


Monograph Series 2015

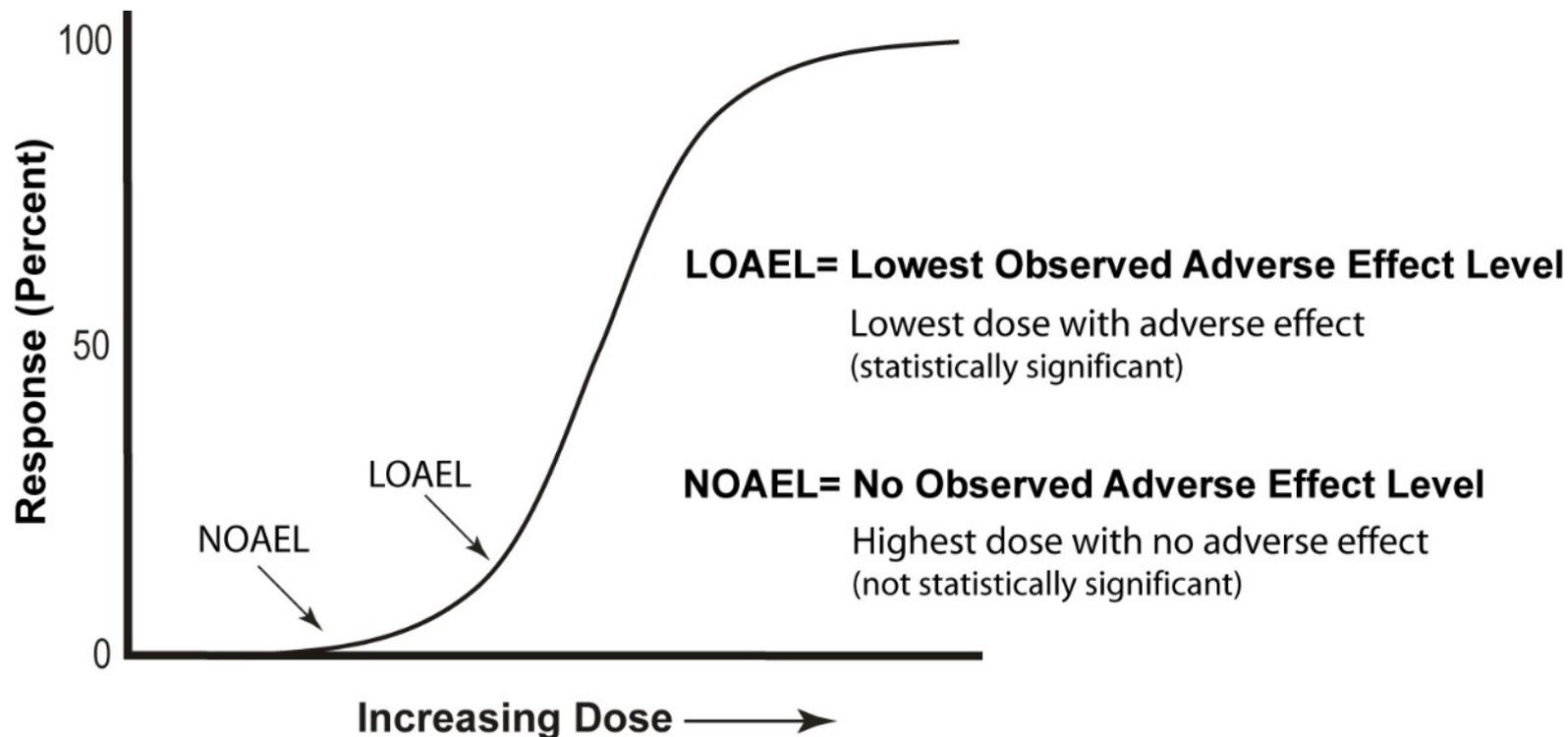
Principles of Toxicology

- Toxicity – Innate Property of a Substance
- Hazard – Potential for Exposure
- Risk – Probability of exposure

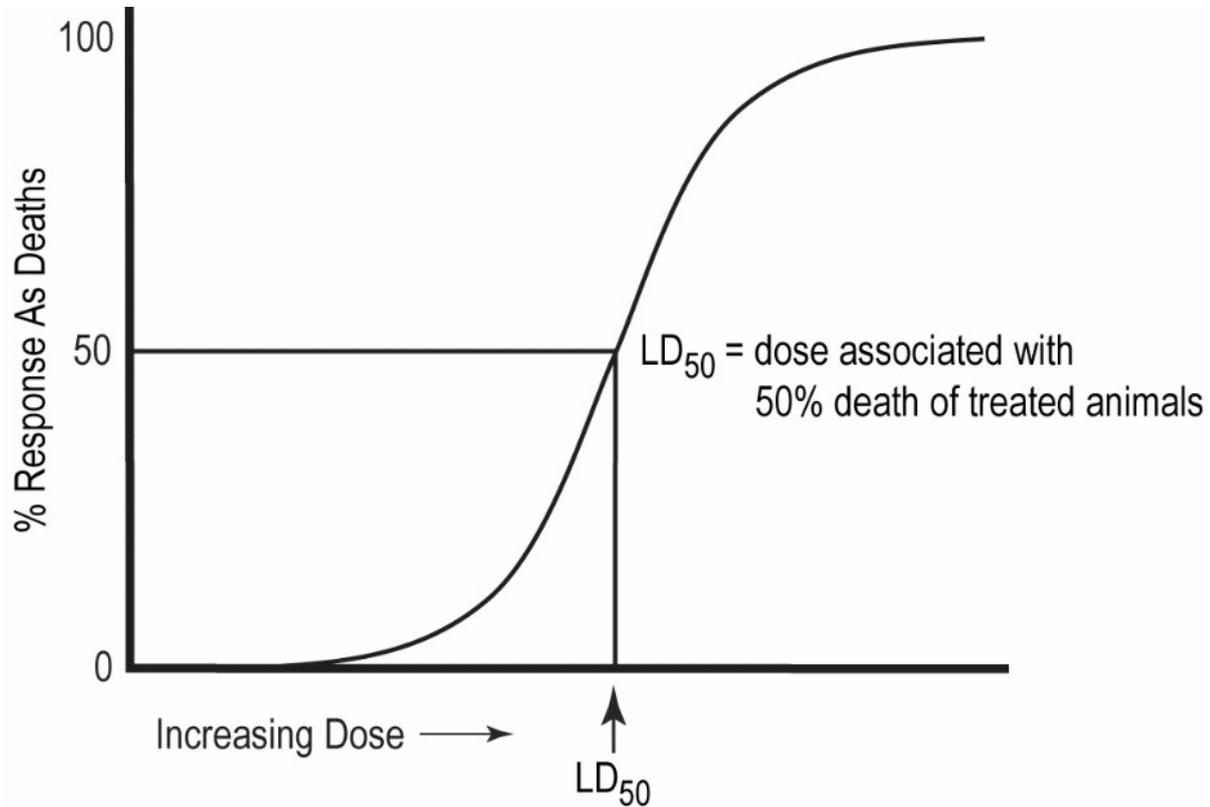
- Individual Variation



Dose and Dose Response

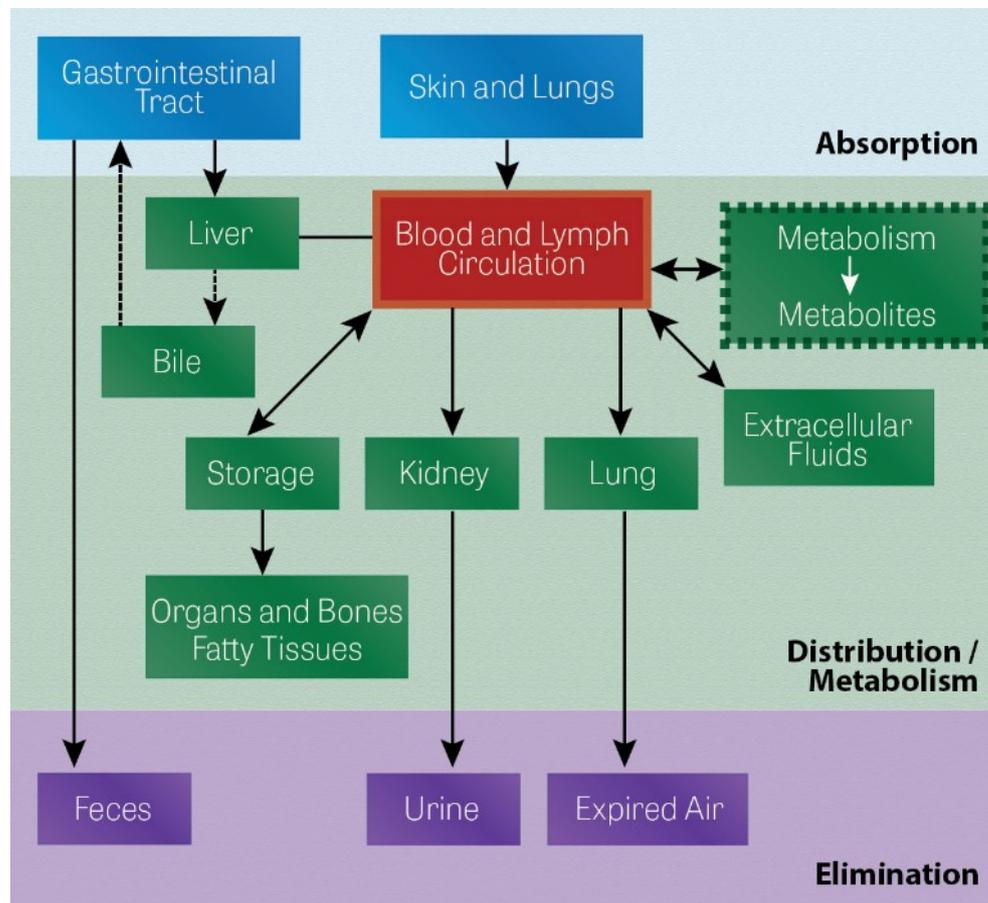


Acute Toxicity - LD₅₀



Toxicokinetics

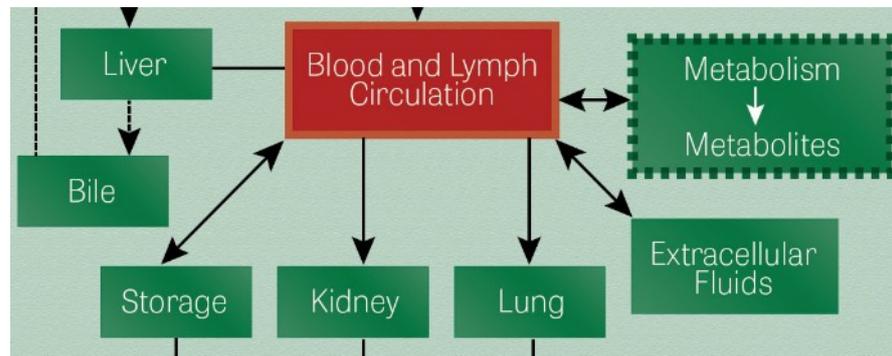
- Absorption
- Distribution
- Metabolism
- Elimination



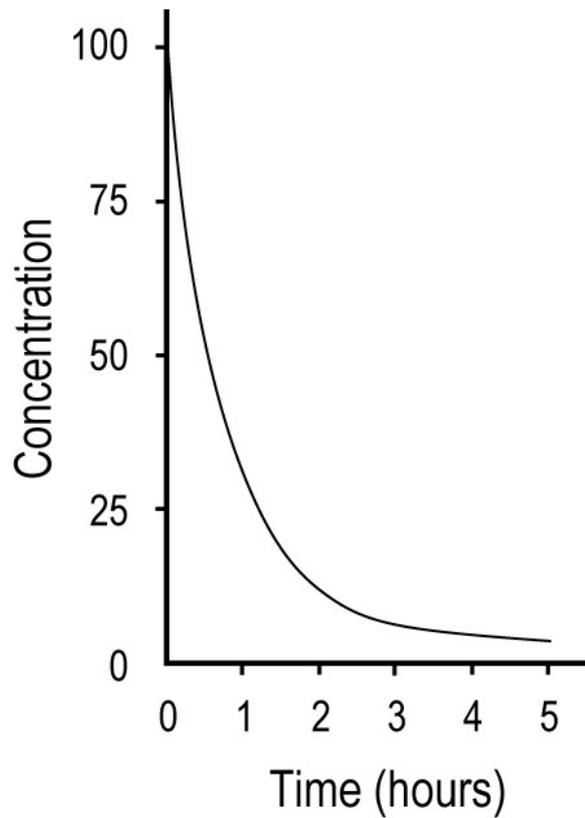
Timing of Specimen Collection

Kinetics of Excretion - $\frac{1}{2}$ Life

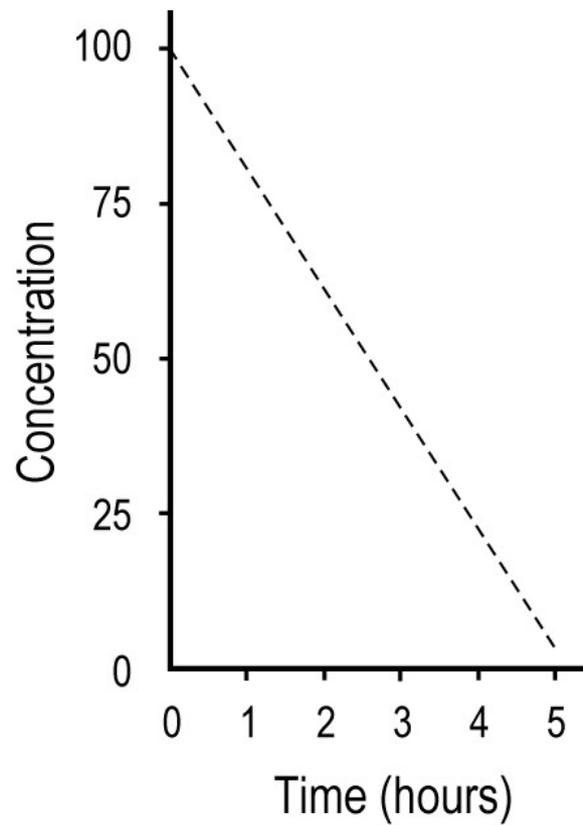
- Whole Body
 - Slow – methyl mercury, lead, cadmium (persistent)
- Expired Air
 - Fast – solvents
- Blood
 - Metabolism, storage
- Urine
 - Reabsorption in the nephron – passive or active process



Elimination Kinetics



First Order



Zero Order

Toxicology Tutorials



U.S. National
Library of Medicine

Environmental Health & Toxicology Information

The logo for ToxTutor, with "Tox" in a light green, bold, sans-serif font and "Tutor" in a white, bold, sans-serif font, both with a slight drop shadow. The background is a blurred green image of foliage.

ToxTutor



1. Introduction to Toxicology
2. Dose and Dose Response
3. Toxic Effects
4. Interactions
5. Toxicity Testing Methods
6. Risk Assessment
7. Exposure Standards and Guidelines
8. Basic Physiology
9. Introduction to Toxicokinetics
10. Absorption
11. Distribution
12. Biotransformation
13. Excretion
14. Cellular Toxicology
15. Conclusion

Certificate of Tutorial Completion

Searchable Toxicology Databases



U.S. National
Library of Medicine

TOXNET TOXICOLOGY
DATA NETWORK

HSDB Hazardous Substances Data Bank.

Peer-reviewed toxicology data for over 5,000 hazardous chemicals

TOXLINE

4 million references of effects of drugs and other chemicals

OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO CHEMICALS

Links jobs and hazardous tasks with occupational diseases and their symptoms

ChemIDplus Chemical Dictionary

LactMed Breastfeeding

DART Developmental and Reproductive Toxicology Database

HOUSEHOLD PRODUCT SAFETY Household Products Database

Susceptible Populations

- Children
- Pregnant
- Breast feeding
- Impaired
- Older



Story of the Irrawaddy Big Pots



Moving the Big Pots



Loading



Transporting

Making the Big Pots



Big Pots Hazards



Who is at Risk?



At School



At Play

References

Safety and Health Awareness for Oil Spill Cleanup Workers (free download)

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) https://www.osha.gov/Publications/Oil_Spill_Booklet_05.11_v4.pdf

Occupational Safety and Health online: How to find reliable information (free download)

Third edition 2016. <http://www.idoh.net/>

Fourth National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals (free download)

Updated Tables March 2018 <https://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/index.html>

Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) See Website

National Center for Environmental Health

Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine See Website

American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM)

Occupational Medicine See Website

Journal of the Society of Occupational Medicine

U.S. National Library of Medicine See Website

TLVs and BEIs: Guide to Occupational Exposure Values

American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists

<https://www.acgih.org/forms/store/ProductFormPublic/2018-tlvs-book-and-oev-guide-combo-set>

References

Clinical Practice of Biological Monitoring

Eds H Hoffman et al. OEM Press

<https://www.oempres.com/category/s?keyword=hoffman>

List of MAK and BAT Values 2017 (free download) <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/9783527812127>

German Research Foundation

Risk-based health surveillance and biological monitoring

Department Consumer and Employment Protection <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/> Search Website

Government of Western Australia 2008

safe work aust <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/> Search Website

Hazardous Chemical Information System (HCIS)

Guidance on the interpretation of workplace exposure standards for airborne contaminants. April 2013

Health monitoring for exposure to hazardous chemicals: guide for medical practitioners. February 2013

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/index.htm> See Website

California Department of Public Health <https://www.cdph.ca.gov> See Website

Occupational Health Branch

Guide to Pregnancy and Work (free download)

<https://www.racp.edu.au/docs/default-source/advocacy-library/the-australasian-faculty-of-occupational-and-environmental-medicine-guide-to-pregnancy-and-work.pdf>

AFOEM 2017

References

Reproductive and Developmental Hazard Management (free download)

ACOEM Guidance Statement 2016

https://journals.lww.com/joem/fulltext/2016/03000/Reproductive_and_Developmental_Hazard_Management.23.aspx

Managing Individual Exposure to Lead in Australia – A Guide for Health Practitioners (this and other free downloads)

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/eh58>

National Health and Medical Research Council 2016

Workplace Lead Exposure (free download)

http://www.acoem.org/uploadedFiles/Public_Affairs/Policies_And_Position_Statements/Guidelines/Position_Statements/Workplace_Lead_Exposure.pdf

ACOEM Position Statement 2016

References

Occupational Cancer: A guide to prevention, assessment and investigation (free download)

<https://www.racp.edu.au/docs/default-source/default-document-library/occupational-cancer---a-guide-to-prevention-assessment-and-investigation.pdf?sfvrsn=4>

The Australasian Faculty of Occupational Medicine. May 2003

Occupational exposures to carcinogens in Australia. Workers' compensation claims paid in Australia 2000-2012 (free download)

<https://www.cancerwa.asn.au/resources/2015-05-07-Occupational-exposure-to-carcinogens-in-Australia-workers-compensation-claims-2000-2012.pdf>

Cancer Council Western Australia

U.S. National Library of Medicine

ToxTutor <https://toxtutor.nlm.nih.gov/>

Toxnet <https://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/>

Health Surveillance

Part 2 Planning and Implementation

Planning a Health Surveillance Program

- **Interface with Wellness Programs**
 - Smoking Cessation / Workplace Exposure Control
- **Workplace wellness programs: Do they work?**
 - Need to be evidence based



Michael Hodge

From Evidence to Practice: Workplace Wellness that Works

Review by:

Institute for Health and Productivity Studies
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
2015



Planning a Health Surveillance Program

- **Workplace Inspection**
- **Routes of Exposure**
 - Ingestion
 - Inhalation
 - Dermal
- **Measurement of Workplace Exposure**
 - Workplace
 - Individual
 - Surface



NIOSH



U.S. Navy

Planning a Health Surveillance Program

- Who is concerned?
- Who is **not** exposed?
- Who is exposed?
 - How many?
 - Sampling?
- Occupational Exposures
 - Solvents
 - Isocyanates
 - Heavy Metals
 - Asbestos
 - Silica



Phosphate smelting furnace

Advantages of Biological Monitoring

- Integration of all exposures
 - Main job, second job
 - Hobbies, environmental sources
- All routes of exposure including dermal
- Internal exposure when using PPE
- Adverse effects
 - Liver enzymes, haem synthesis
- Individual differences



Gary Rice



Bradleycronk



David Bernal Del Agua

Limitations of Biological Monitoring

- Limited range of tests
- Specimen contamination
- Metabolism
 - Chemical or its metabolite/s
- Timing
 - Short $\frac{1}{2}$ life
- Requires cooperation
- Interpretation may be difficult
- Expensive

Environmental Exposures - Food

Food

- Local
 - Pesticides
 - Heavy metals
- Imported
 - Pesticides
 - Heavy metals



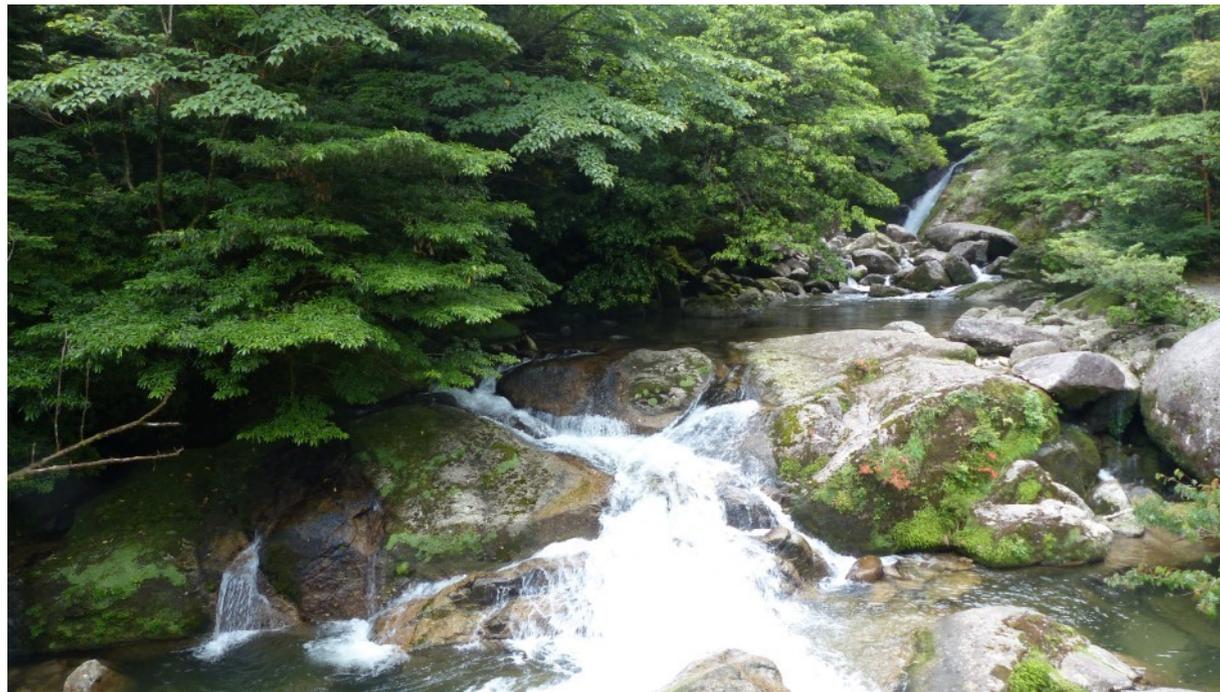
Kitchen Garden



Goa Market

Environmental Exposures - Water

Surface Water



Yackashima National Park

Environmental Exposures - Water

Surface Water



Mongolia

Environmental Exposures - Water

Surface Water



Dry stone creek bed in Western Australia

Environmental Exposures - Water

Surface Water



Adelaide Water Supply from the Murray River

Environmental Exposures - Water

Ground Water



Spring in Afghanistan



Old Well in Geraldton

Environmental Exposures - Water

Ground Water



Coorang Soak

Environmental Exposures - Water

Stored Water

Galvanised (seams – lead)

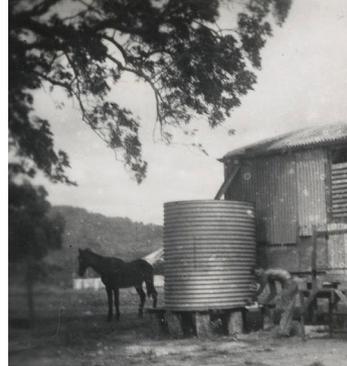
Concrete

Steel alloy * (seams – sealant)

Pre-painted steel #

Polyethylene (Poly)

* Zincolume® # Aquaplate®



Toby Hudson



Unknown

Ingolfson

Some Hazardous Occupational Exposures

- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) or ‘Solvents’
- Isocyanates
- Heavy metals
 - Lead, mercury, arsenic
- Pesticides
- Asbestos
- Silica



Hazardous Occupational Exposures

Silica Dust



Granite



Manufactured stone

Agricultural Industry Hazards

Cotton

- Extensive range of approved pesticides
- Integrated pest and disease management
- Minimise pesticide usage
- Best practices for aerial and ground boom spray application



Occupational Exposure – Physical Factors

- Ultra-violet radiation
- Vibration
- Heat

Heat waves from a controlled burn



I did it my way!

A7med3ssam9



Kristopher Radder



U. S. Fish and Wildlife
Service - Northeast Region

Principles for Identifying Suitable Biological Monitoring Tests

- Identification of suitable **biological media** depending on **mechanisms of excretion**
- Identification of **chemical exposure** or **suitable metabolites**
- Mixed exposure – metals, solvents, pesticides

Biological Monitoring Tests

- Background levels
 - Metals
 - Solvents – metabolic and dietary sources
- Level of exposure
- Measure dose and/or effect
- Limitations on the usefulness of tests
 - Sensitivity, specificity, timing

Principles of Specimen Collection

When to Collect

v

Half-life

During Exposure

<2 hours

During/End of Shift (last 2h)

<5 hours

Prior to Next Shift

5 – 10 hours

End of Shift at End of Work Week

10 – 100 hours

Not Critical (after period of exposure)

Weeks

Principles of Specimen Collection

When to Repeat Collection

v

Half-life

1 Day

<5 hours

1 Week

5 – 50 hours

1 Month

2 – 8 days

3 Months

1 – 6 weeks

6 Months

6 – 12 weeks

1 Year

>12 weeks

Analytical Laboratories

- Accreditation and Quality Control
- Documentation of methods/interpretation
- Subcontracting to other laboratories
- Reporting
- Timeliness
- Support for specimen collection and transport
- Specificity and variability of analytical methods
- Assistance with interpretation



Collection of Biological Specimens

- Is the sample **from the Worker?**
- Is the sample **Contaminated?**
 - Blood
 - Urine
- Is it a **usable Urine sample?**
 - Is concentration normal?



T. Miller



Walcha, NSW

Cgoodwin



GrahamColm



Turbotorque

Collection, Transport and Reporting of Biological Specimens

- Identify specimen
- Timely transport to laboratory
- Accredited laboratory
- Timely reporting
- Interpretation



A Stall Story from Western Australia

It was a hot day and we were glad to stop for lunch in the park.

After lunch I went to the shopping centre in search of you know what.



The Stall Story

Found what I needed!

Stall clean and no graffiti

but

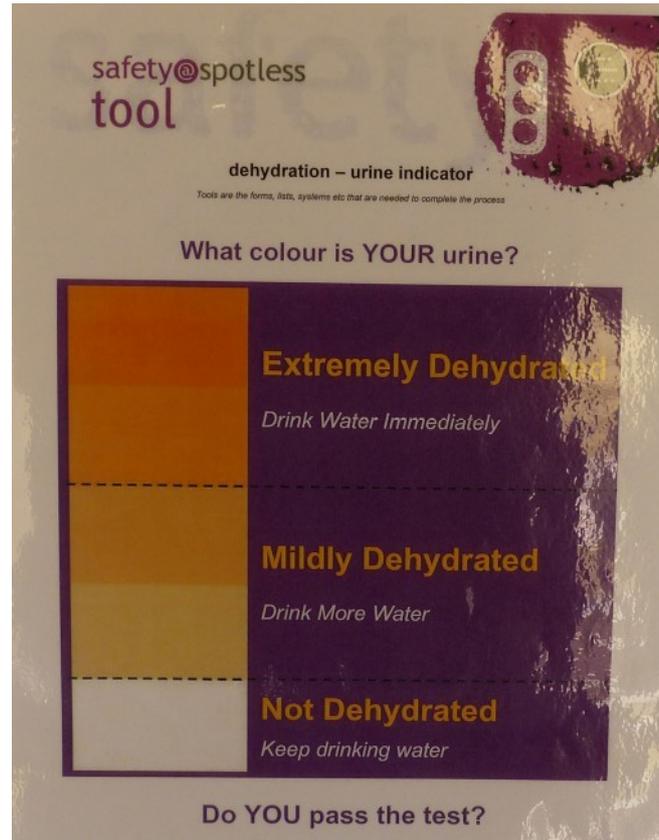
What was that on the wall?



The Stall Message to Workers

It is always a **hot day**, especially in summer and you may experience **heat stress**.

Dehydration makes **heat stroke** more likely.



Are you adequately hydrated?

What colour is your urine?

Did you pass the test?

Interpretation of Test Results

- Is the test interpretable?
- **If NOT, do NOT order**
- Explain why



Industrial Action

Some Practical Issues

- Effective Communication with Workers and Unions
- Reporting to Management Issues
 - Confidentiality
- Communication with
 - General Practitioners
 - Other Team Members



ENERGY.GOV



Biswarup Ganguly

References

From Evidence to Practice: Workplace Wellness that Works (free download)

Review by: Institute for Health and Productivity Studies.

<https://www.transamericacenterforhealthstudies.org/docs/default-source/wellness-page/from-evidence-to-practice---workplace-wellness-that-works.pdf?sfvrsn=>

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health 2015

Cotton Pest Management Guide 2017-18 (free download)

<https://www.cottoninfo.com.au/publications/cotton-pest-management-guide>

Health Surveillance

Part 3 Case Reports and Discussion

Case Reports: from Occupational Medicine

Journal of the Society of Occupational Medicine

Anaphylactic reaction in a hairdresser due to sensitization to persulphates

Occupational rhinoconjunctivitis caused by the common indoor plant, *Hoya compacta*

Sensitization to cow's milk protein in a dairy worker

Sensitization to xylanolytic enzymes: an underestimated health hazard among bakers



Case Reports: from Occupational Medicine

Journal of the Society of Occupational Medicine

Anaphylactic reaction in a hairdresser due to sensitization to persulphates

Background:

Persulphates present in permanent hair dyes and bleaching products. May be present in dental cement.

Irritant dermatitis common (10 – 20%) in hairdressers.

Allergic dermatitis: p-phenylenediamine, toluene-2.5-diamine, persulphates and glyceryl monoethioglycolate

Asthma and rhinitis: persulphates, p-phenylenediamine, latex and natural henna

A. Kleniewska et al. *Anaphylactic reaction in a hairdresser due to sensitization to persulphates*. *Occupational Medicine* 2016; 66: 584–585



Case Reports: from Occupational Medicine

Journal of the Society of Occupational Medicine

Anaphylactic reaction in a hairdresser due to sensitization to persulphates

Hairdresser for 30 years. After 15 years developed sneezing and urticaria and erythema on hands and forearms after using bleaching products. Symptoms were better when not at work. She also became allergic to latex gloves and thereafter only used vinyl gloves.

Prior to hospital admission she had undertaken routine dental treatment over several months. During this time procedures using dental cement containing persulphates was used. Latex gloves were not used. She eventually developed facial oedema, erythema and severe dyspnoea during dental treatment and was admitted to hospital where an anaphylactic reaction was confirmed.

Investigations confirmed allergy to persulphates and latex. Dermatitis resolved after she left work.

X. Mun et al. *Occupational Asthma Due to Persulfate Salts: Diagnosis and Follow-up*. CHEST 2003; 123:2124–2129



David-R.-Tribble

Case Reports: from Occupational Medicine

Journal of the Society of Occupational Medicine

Occupational rhinoconjunctivitis caused by the common indoor plant, *Hoya compacta*

Allergic reactions to *Hoya compacta* (wax plant) not previously reported.

Greenhouse gardener developed rhinoconjunctivitis after working 4 months with *Hoya compacta*. Another employee developed rhinoconjunctivitis after working 2½ years.

Plant service company employee who mainly worked with *Hoya compacta* and *Ficus benjamina* (weeping fig) developed rhinoconjunctivitis after working 1 year.

Positive skin prick tests and histamine release tests showed Type I IgE mediated sensitization to *Hoya compacta*.

D. Sherson et al. *Occupational rhinoconjunctivitis caused by the common indoor plant, Hoya compacta*. *Occupational Medicine* 2017. 67: 490–492



Case Reports: from Occupational Medicine

Journal of the Society of Occupational Medicine

Sensitization to cow's milk protein in a dairy worker

Dairy industry worker for 17 years making butter, cheese and dried milk.

For last 10 years made dried milk without PPE. After 2 years developed eczema on face and upper limbs which improved when not at work. Made worse after eating dairy products. Eventually stopped eating dairy products.

Developed anaphylaxis after drinking milk by mistake.

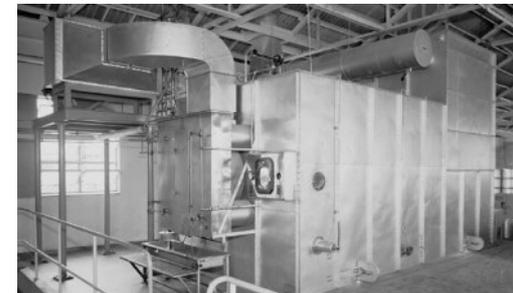
Skin prick tests positive for casein, lactalbumin and lactoglobulin. Serum specific IgE tests were positive for casein but negative for lactalbumin and lactoglobulin.

B. Quirantes Sierra et al. *Sensitization to cow's milk protein in a dairy worker*. *Occupational Medicine* 2017. 67: 579–580



Stirring raw milk curd

Bob-Nichols



Milk spray drying equipment

Case Reports: from Occupational Medicine

Journal of the Society of Occupational Medicine

Sensitization to xylanolytic enzymes: an health hazard among bakers

Xylan is a polysaccharide and is a major component of plant cell walls. Xylanases converts water-insoluble hemicellulose into a soluble form which binds with water in the dough making it less sticky and improves the bread structure. Allergens in bread making include flour and enzymes, especially α -amylase.

Case Report:

Baker with 6 years exposure who suffered from work-related respiratory, ocular and skin symptoms.

Investigations:

Skin prick tests with common and occupational allergens were negative. Spirometry and methacholine challenge normal to flour exposure. After 20 min exposure to flour adjuvants, developed cough, itching and wheezing. and fall in FEV₁ and positive metacholine challenge. Xylanolytic enzymes IgE positive.



Abul-H

A. Lipińska-Ojrzanowska et al. *Sensitization to xylanolytic enzymes: an health hazard among bakers*. *Occupational Medicine* 2016. 66: 415–418

M.S. Butt et al., *Xylanases and their application in the Baking Industry*. *Food Technol. Biotechnol.* 2008. 46: 22–31

Case Reports: from Occupational Medicine

Journal of the Society of Occupational Medicine

Carbon monoxide poisoning in wood pellet storerooms

Occupational asthma caused by an epoxy amine hardener

Subclinical chronic left ventricular systolic dysfunction resulting from phosphine poisoning

Rhabdomyolysis with acute tubular necrosis following occupational inhalation of thinners



Case Reports: from Occupational Medicine

Journal of the Society of Occupational Medicine

Carbon monoxide poisoning in wood pellet storerooms

Background: Chemical degradation of wood pellets in storage facilities may result in emission of significant levels of carbon monoxide.

Unconscious man found in a wood pellet storeroom. Rescued by firemen and paramedics who gave CPR but he subsequently died.

Carbon monoxide level of 600 ppm was detected in the area CPR given.

Rescuers complained of dizziness, headache, nausea and fatigue.

Initial levels of carboxyhaemoglobin in the rescuers were estimated to be higher than 10%. Treated with 100% oxygen until carboxyhaemoglobin levels normal.

Rescuers should be equipped with carbon monoxide detectors and use self-contained breathing apparatus prior to entering areas with elevated carbon monoxide levels.



Case Reports: from Occupational Medicine

Journal of the Society of Occupational Medicine

Occupational asthma caused by an epoxy amine hardener

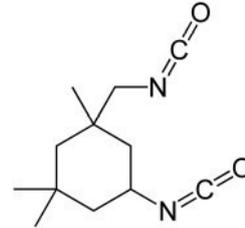
Floor layer developed work-related asthma after using a volatile epoxy hardener based on isophorone diamine (IPDA) for ~3 years.

Symptoms occurred 3 – 5 hours after exposure and lasted 2 – 4 days. Used salbutamol up to 10 times a day for symptom control.

Investigated ~1 year after developing symptoms. Diagnosis was confirmed through specific inhalation challenges.

NB Cross sensitivity can occur between isophorone diamine and isophorone diisocyanate (used in paints that have high resistance to UV and abrasion).

O. Vandenplas et al. *Occupational asthma caused by an epoxy amine hardener*. *Occupational Medicine* 2017. 67: 722–724



Isophorone diamine



ARKdeko-Desi



Steve Jurvetson

Case Reports: from Occupational Medicine

Journal of the Society of Occupational Medicine

Subclinical chronic left ventricular systolic dysfunction resulting from phosphine poisoning

32-year-old male crew member of a cargo ship, accidentally exposed to the fumigant phosphine.

Developed gastric symptoms then, bilateral pneumonia, acute nephritis, mild LFT abnormalities, electrolyte imbalance and leucopenia. Two other crew died from acute pulmonary oedema.

Received supportive treatment and discharged after 3 weeks asymptomatic.

Further investigation after 4 months revealed subclinical left ventricular dysfunction. This confirmed previous reports.

E. Szymczyk et al. *Subclinical chronic left ventricular systolic dysfunction resulting from phosphine poisoning*. Occupational Medicine 2017. 67: 233–235



Silo - Australia

Johnscotaus



Unloading grain - USA

Jim Pickerell

Case Reports: from Occupational Medicine

Journal of the Society of Occupational Medicine

Rhabdomyolysis with acute tubular necrosis following occupational inhalation of thinners

'Thinners' are mixtures of organic solvents such as toluene, xylene, acetone, hexane, benzene and methyl isobutyl ketone. Cleaned the interior surface of a 4000 L steel water tank with thinners. No PPE.

Became unwell, with headache, body pains and weakness. After 4 days developed oliguria, grossly abnormal LFTs and elevated serum creatinine kinase levels. Renal biopsy confirmed acute tubular necrosis. Haemodialysed for 7 days. Discharged after 4 weeks with biochemical levels returning to normal apart from creatine kinase which remained elevated.

Diagnosis: Rhabdomyolysis with acute tubular necrosis and renal failure probably due to high acute exposure to toluene.

D. Ngajilo et al. *Rhabdomyolysis with acute tubular necrosis following occupational inhalation of thinners*. Occupational Medicine. 2017. 67: 401–403



Wascosa-ag



Sandstein

Occupational Medicine Forum:

from Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Official Journal of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

How Do I Diagnose and Treat Workers With Injuries From Hydrofluoric Acid?

What Conditions Should Be Assessed in Evaluating Individuals Who Work in Confined Spaces?

What Is the Mediterranean Diet and How Can It Be Used to Promote Workplace Health?



Occupational Medicine Forum:

from Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Official Journal of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

- **What Is the Mediterranean Diet and How Can It Be Used to Promote Workplace Health?**
- **Typical diet Greece, Southern Italy, coastal Croatia and Spain**
 - +++ Fat – olive oil
 - +++ Carbohydrate – fruit, vegetables, legumes, nuts
 - ++ Protein – fish, seafood, poultry, eggs, yoghurt
 - + Protein – red and processed meat
 - + Sugar
 - Wine with meals



M. Korre et al. *What Is the Mediterranean Diet and How Can It Be Used to Promote Workplace Health?* JOEM. 2016. 58 (3): 111 – 113

Occupational Medicine Forum:

from Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
Official Journal of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

What Is the Mediterranean Diet and How Can It Be Used to Promote Workplace Health?

Benefits - Reduction in Risk

- CHD Mortality 20 – 40%
- CVD Mortality 25 – 45%
- Diabetes Incidence 25 – 30%
- All cause mortality 17 – 25%

Mediterranean Diet

- Acceptable in Wellness Program Trials
- Safe, Appealing, Long term adherence



M. Korre et al. *What Is the Mediterranean Diet and How Can It Be Used to Promote Workplace Health?* JOEM. 2016. 58 (3): 111 – 113

ACOEM Position Statement: Workplace Lead Exposure

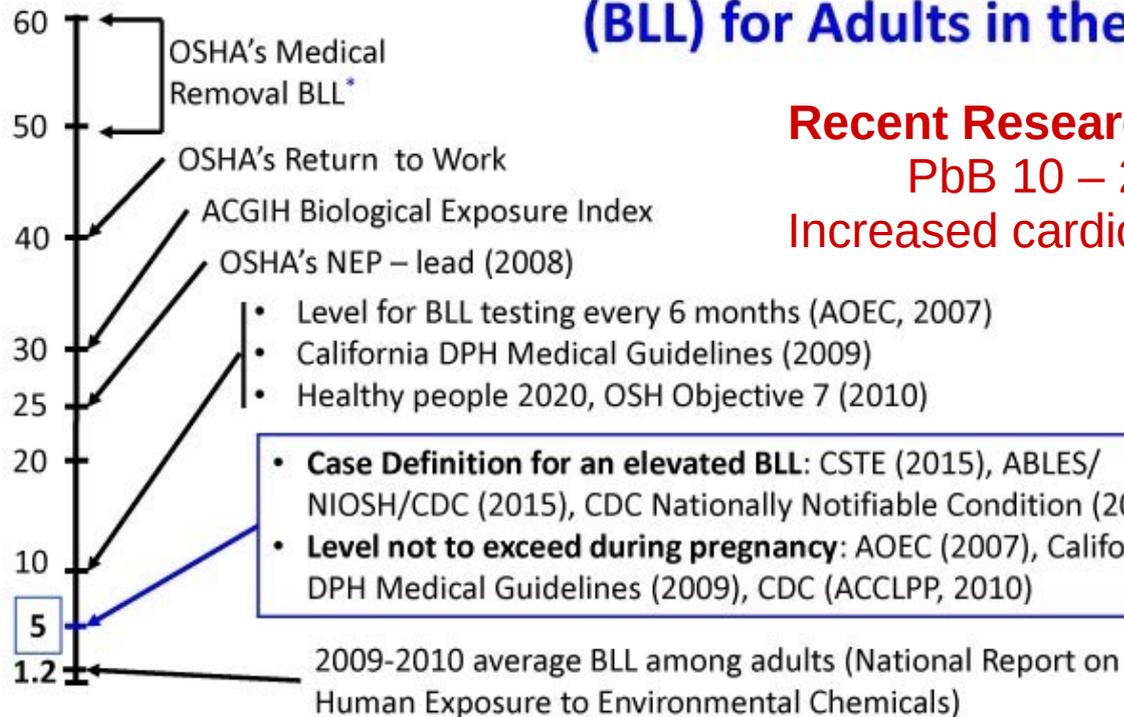


Slide updated 12/18/2015

Blood lead concentration
($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$)

Reference Blood Lead Levels (BLL) for Adults in the U.S.

Recent Research Findings:
PbB 10 – 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$
Increased cardiovascular risk



$\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	$\mu\text{mol}/\text{l}$
80	3.9
70	2.4
60	2.9
50	2.4
40	1.9
30	1.4
25	1.2
20	1.0
10	0.5
5	0.2
1.2	0.1

ACOEM Position Statement: Workplace Lead Exposure



Recommendations

Baseline Testing	For all workers with significant lead exposure		
Testing Frequency	PbB every 2 months for first 6 months	$\mu\text{g/dl}$	$\mu\text{mol/l}$
	Aim: Pregnant* workers PbB <5 $\mu\text{g/dl}$	1.2	0.1
	Other workers PbB <15 $\mu\text{g/dl}$	5	0.2
Blood Lead Level		10	0.5
$\geq 5 - 9 \mu\text{g/dl}$	$\geq 5 \mu\text{g/dl}$ – workplace inspection	20	1.0
$10 - 19 \mu\text{g/dl}$	PbB every 2 months – repeat workplace inspection	25	1.2
	PbB every 6 months when <10 $\mu\text{g/dl}$ [#]	30	1.4
	PbB >10 $\mu\text{g/dl}$ – remove if pregnant: return <5 $\mu\text{g/dl}$[#]	40	1.9
$>20 \mu\text{g/dl}$ [#]	Remove – repeat workplace inspection	50	2.4
	Return <15 $\mu\text{g/dl}$ [#]	60	2.9
$\geq 30 \mu\text{g/dl}$	Remove Immediately – repeat workplace inspection	70	2.4
	Return <15 $\mu\text{g/dl}$ [#]	80	3.9

* includes females trying to become pregnant

confirmed = repeat in 1 month

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Anaphylactic reaction in a hairdresser due to sensitization to persulphates.

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Occupational asthma due to Persulfate salts: Diagnosis and follow-up.

X. Mun et al. CHEST 2003; 123:2124–2129

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O. Vandenplas et al. *Occupational Medicine* 2017. 67: 722–724

Subclinical chronic left ventricular systolic dysfunction resulting from Phosphine Poisoning.

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D. Ngajilo et al. *Occupational Medicine*. 2017. 67: 401–403

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Health Surveillance

Part 4 Community Concerns

Community Concerns

Asbestos

- Example of asbestos cement siding and lining on a post-war temporary house in Yardley (UK).
- Nearly 40,000 houses were built between 1946 and 1949.
- Photo 2016
- 70 years old
- **Concern or Risk**
 - Passers by?
 - Residents?
 - Renovation?



Community Concerns

Garden

- Imidacloprid *
(Confidor®)
- Spinetoram (Yates
Success™ ULTRA Insect
Control)
- Carbaryl (Richgro
Caterpillar, Grasshopper &
Millipede Insecticide)
- Pyrethrum (Hortico
Insect Killer)

For further information see
Safety Data Sheet of
manufacturer



* A systemic neonicotinoid insecticide to be withdrawn by Australian retailers by end 2018 due to concerns regarding bees. No evidence of decline in Australian bee populations according to Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

Community Concerns

Termite Control

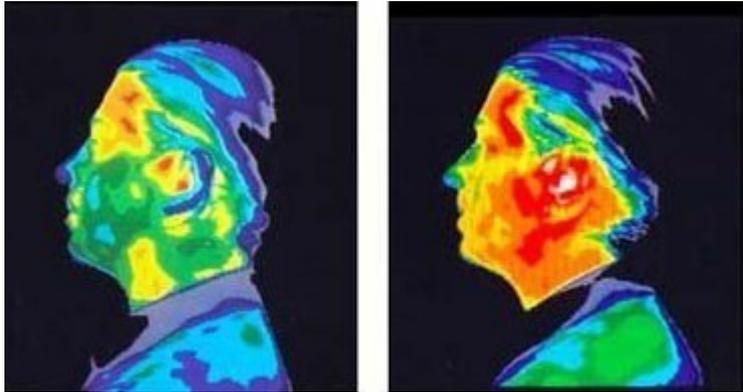
- Non-repellent
 - Fipronil (Termidor®)
 - Imidacloprid (Confidor®)
- Repellent
 - Chlorpyrifos and Bifenthrin
- Stainless Steel Mesh
- Baits
- Other



For further information see Safety Data Sheet of manufacturer

Community Concerns

Mobile Phones, Base Stations and Power Lines (RF)



Thermographic image after 15 min call



Tracey Nicholls



Andrew Smith

Community Concerns

Fire Foam Contamination



Ken Wright



National Park Service

Community Concerns

Fire Foam Contamination



F18A Hornet



Hunter Estuary Wetlands



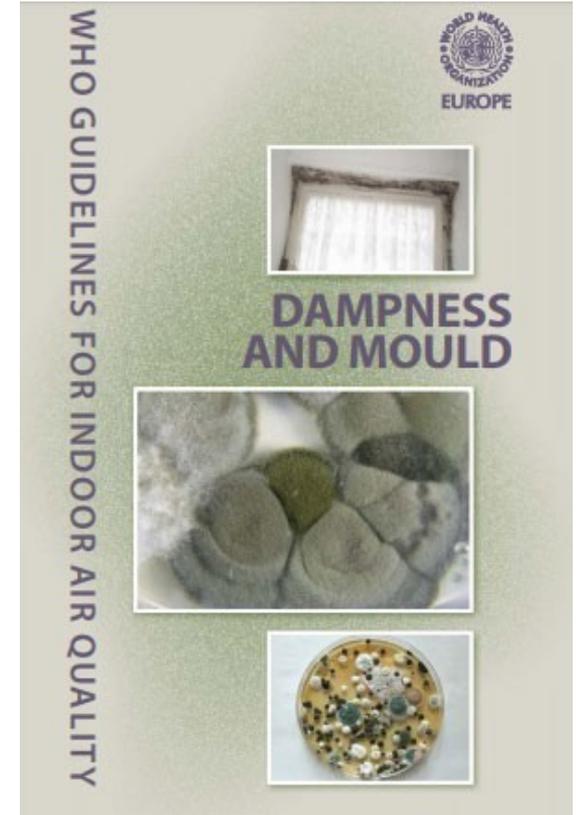
Bottled Water

Community Concerns

Mould in Buildings



Post Katrina



Community Concerns

Coal Transport from Upper Hunter Mines to Newcastle for Export

Coal train near Singleton



Coal train near Newcastle



Newcastle Coal Terminals



Community Concerns

Rail Transport of Zinc / Lead Ore for Smelting and Export

Smelter

Port Pirie
Nyrstar smelter stack



Mine

Broken Hill
Rasp Mine



Export

Newcastle
Shiploader (Conports)



References

Mobile phones and health

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Mobile phone base stations and health

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Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) [For further information See Website]

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and Your Health

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/overview.html>

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) For further information See Website

Health Based Guidance Values for Per- and Poly- Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

[https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/2200FE086D480353CA2580C900817CDC/\\$File/fs-Health-Based-Guidance-Values.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/2200FE086D480353CA2580C900817CDC/$File/fs-Health-Based-Guidance-Values.pdf)

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Health Surveillance

Part 5 Forgotten Exposures

Forgotten Exposures



Aboriginal children (Balgo WA)
participating in National Iodine Study 2004

Traditional or natural aboriginal medicine



Forgotten Exposures



Lifestyle



Alice Springs Todd River



Forgotten Exposures

Thursday Island



Indigenous

Cape York



Tourists

Forgotten Exposures

Indigenous (New Guinea)



Indigenous Diet

New Guinea

Fiji



Forgotten Exposures - Farmers



Occupational Pesticide Illness Prevention Program

Fact Sheets and Reports

Preventing Illness from Pesticide Drift

Pesticide Illness: A comprehensive educational curriculum for health care providers



CDPH



USDA k4817-4

Forgotten Exposures

Californian Migrant Farmworkers

(California Rural Legal Assistance)

- **Pesticides**
- **Heat stress**



Forgotten Exposures

Poultry Slaughter and Evisceration *

Biological Hazards

Chemical Hazards

Physical Hazards

Ergonomic Hazards

Traumatic Injury and Safety Hazards

Reported Health Effects

* see NIOSH



Forgotten Exposures

Offshore Workers

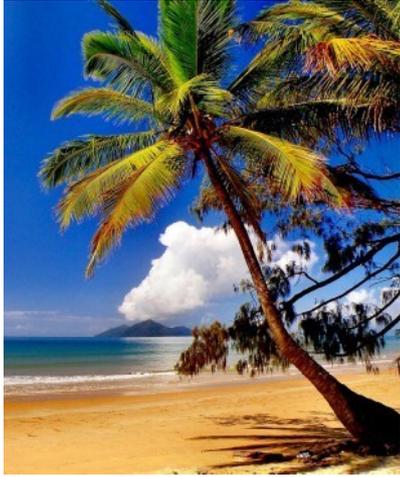
Ultraviolet Radiation and Skin Cancer Risk in Offshore Workers

J. S. Stenehjem et al. *Occupational Medicine*
2017;67:569–573



North Sea Gas Platform

Time for a Seachange?



1



2



3



4



5

1. Lasthib
2. Paul Toogood
3. Tourism NT
4. W. Bulach
5. Evad37



Forgotten Seachange Exposures

Leaving the city
for a better
Lifestyle?

Self-sufficiency?

Fewer hazards?

Still working?

Retired?

Returning to the
city?



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* For further information See NIOSH POULTRY INDUSTRY WORKERS Website

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