Air Pollution Sources

Major Man-Made Air Pollutants

POLLUTANT	DESCRIPTION	sources	SIGNS/ EFFECTS
Carbon monoxide (CO)	colorless, odorless gas	 vehicles burning gasoline indoor sources, including kerosene, wood-burning, natural gas, coal, or wood-burning stoves and heaters 	 headaches, reduced mental alertness, death heart damage
Lead (Pb)	metallic element	vehicles burning leaded gasolinemetal refinerieslead paint	brain and kidney damage contaminated crops and livestock
Nitrogen oxides (NO _x)	gaseous compounds made up of nitrogen and oxygen	 vehicles power plants burning fossil fuels coal-burning stoves 	 lung damage react in atmosphere to form acid rain deteriorate buildings and statues damage forests form ozone & other pollutants (smog)
Ozone (O ₃)	gaseous pollutant	vehicle exhaust and certain other fumes formed from other air pollutants in the presence of sunlight	 lung damage eye irritation respiratory tract problems damages vegetation smog
Particulate matter	very small particles of soot, dust, or other matter, including tiny droplets of liquids	 diesel engines power plants industries windblown dust wood stoves 	lung damage eye irritation damages crops reduces visibility discolors buildings and statues
Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂)	gaseous compound made up of sulphur and oxygen	 coal-burning power plants and industries coal-burning stoves refineries 	eye irritation lung damage kills aquatic life reacts in atmosphere to form acid rain damages forests deteriorates buildings and statues

Source: EPA's Project A.I.R.E. http://www.epa.gov/region01/students/teacher/airqual.html.

Air Pollution: Lesson 1, Air Pollution Sources Chart