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 gasoline • metal refineries • lead 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 vegeta-tion • 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 atmo-sphere 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.