

## **Air Toxics**

Toxic Air toxics are those air pollutants that are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems. The degree to which a toxic air pollutant affects a person's health depends on many factors, including the quantity of pollutant the person is exposed to, the duration and frequency of exposures, the toxicity of the chemical, and the person's state of health and susceptibility. Scientists estimate that millions of tons of toxic pollutants are released into the air each year. Most air toxics originate from manmade sources, including both mobile sources (e.g., cars, buses, trucks) and stationary sources (e.g., factories, refineries, power plants). However, some are released in major amounts from natural sources such as forest fires & soil emissions. Currently EPA does not have ambient air standards for these toxic air pollutants. In 1991 Louisiana became one of only three states which enacted ambient air standards for these pollutants.

LDEQ is currently conducting an ambient air monitoring program for toxics air pollutants to provide the agency with a better understanding of the ambient air quality and to determine if concentrations of toxic pollutants exceed State Ambient Air Quality Standards or other Governmental screening standards.