

# Healthy Air Oregon

## Why is Toxics Right-To-Know important for clean air?

Toxics chemicals in air, land and water can damage human health and the environment.

Toxics Right-To-Know is a foundation of true environmental justice. Access to information and transparency is essential for ALL communities to arm themselves with facts when seeking protections from poorly regulated and harmful industrial practices.

- 1) **Knowledge is power.** In 2017, we have a legislative opportunity to make sure communities throughout Oregon can adopt local Toxics Right-To-Know programs.
- 2) **What is Toxics Right-to-Know?** It is a program that allows the Fire Marshall's office to collect data on hazardous chemicals stored on site or emitted to air and water. The information is then provided to the public via an interactive website.
- 3) **Why is data important for public health?** A Toxics Right-to-Know database creates transparency about the storage and emissions of dangerous chemicals. The best way to prepare for emergencies and to protect public health is to have access to accurate chemical data. The report tracks chemicals from cradle to grave for all industry use of toxics and chemicals in our air and water, storm water and waste streams.
- 4) **Eugene's Toxics Right-To-Know ordinance** has been on the books since 1996 and has been remarkably effective in holding the line on the expansion of toxics pollution. We feel that everyone in Oregon deserves the same protections, but state law makes it very difficult. That needs to change.
- 5) **Data tracking will inform strategic air monitoring** and public health policy in neighborhoods that are disproportionately exposed to a dangerous soup of toxics.



*[www.HealthyAirOregon.org](http://www.HealthyAirOregon.org)*

