



# Toxics Release Inventory Update California Mexico Border Reporting Years 2007-2009

December 2010

U.S. EPA Region 9: California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, and Tribal Nations

The EPA made public the 2009 data on the toxic chemicals that were released to the air, water, and land of California's Border region.\* This report provides data from the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) for the facilities in California that are located within 100 kilometers (using 126 zip code areas) of the U.S./Mexico Border.

## What is a Release?

A TRI "release" is defined as the amount of a toxic chemical released on-site (to air, water, underground injection, landfills, and other land disposal), and the amount transferred off-site for disposal.

## Releases and Health Effects

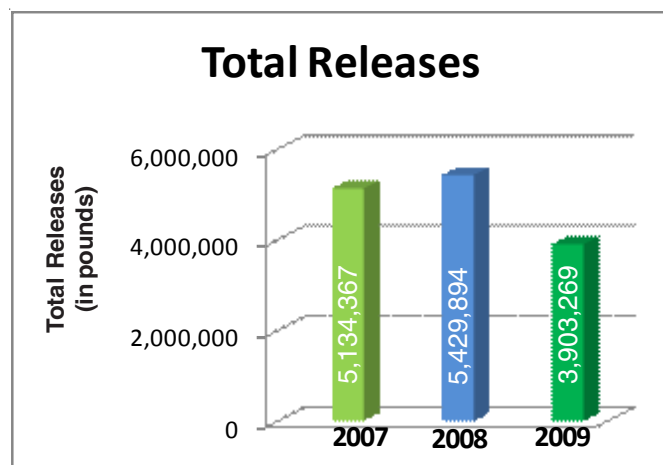
It is important to note that releases should not be directly equated with risk. To evaluate risk, release data must be combined with information about chemical toxicity, site-specific conditions, and exposure. In addition, this data does not indicate whether or not a facility is violating environmental laws. Many of the substances reported through this program are subject to state and federal regulations designed to protect human health and the environment.

## Who is Reporting?

A facility is subject to TRI reporting requirements if it has 10 or more full-time employee equivalents (20,000 work hours per year); is classified under a reportable North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) Code; and manufactures, processes, or otherwise uses any of the TRI chemicals in amounts above established threshold amounts. For most chemicals the thresholds are 25,000 pounds for "manufactured" or "processed," and 10,000 pounds for "otherwise used."

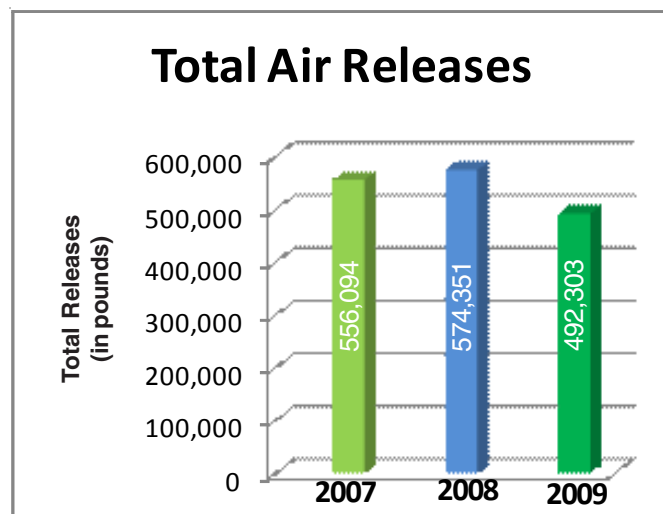
## Chemical Releases

Total (on-site and off-site) TRI chemical releases reported in the California Mexico Border Region during the past three years are displayed in the chart below:\*\*



In 2009, reported releases in the Border area of California (3.9 million pounds) accounted for about 10% of the State's 38 million pounds of reported releases.

Total reported air releases in the Border area of California during the past three years are displayed in the chart below:



\*No adjustments were made to account for double counting that could occur as a result of off-site transfers of some TRI facilities also being reported as on-site releases at permitted hazardous waste landfills and other TRI facilities that receive the on-site transfers.

\*\*Year to year data comparisons do not reflect changes in reporting requirements.

## Trends in Releases

In 2009, 67 facilities in the Border area of California reported releases of approximately 3.9 million pounds of toxic chemicals to the TRI Program. The following chart tracks releases to the environment for reporting years 2007 through 2009.

<b>Total Releases for Reporting Years 2007 – 2009</b>					
Year	Air	Water	On-Site Land	Underground Injection	Off-Site
2007	556,094	157,881	4,385,884	34,508	1,782,359
2008	574,351	114,935	4,700,002	40,606	143,989
2009	492,303	52,410	3,330,888	27,668	91,238

## Largest Releases by Industry Type

During 2009, five industries account for 97% of the total 3.9 million pounds of reported releases in the Border area of California. They are as follows:

Industry	Total Release (pounds)	Percentage of Total Releases
Metal Ore Mining <sup>1</sup>	2,732,125	68%
National Security	733,054	18%
Ship Building and Repairing	280,454	7%
Beet Sugar Manufacturing	67,150	2%
Instrument Manufacturing	57,496	1%

<sup>1</sup> The metal ore mining category includes the following metals: iron, gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper, nickel, uranium, radium and vanadium.

## Largest Releases by Chemical Type

The top five chemicals released in the California Border area in 2009, ranked by total on-site and off-site releases, are as follows:

Chemical Name	Total Release (pounds)	Percentage of Total Releases
LEAD & LEAD COMPOUNDS	2,947,192	74%
COPPER & COPPER COMPOUNDS	270,485	7%
NITRATE COMPOUNDS	213,998	5%
N-BUTYL ALCOHOL	120,618	3%
AMMONIA	89,101	2%

## Facilities Releasing Largest Quantities of Chemicals

Ten facilities, listed in descending order, released the largest total on-site and off-site releases in the Border area of California:

	Facility Name	City Name	Total Releases (pounds)
1	Western Mesquite Mines Inc.	Brawley	2,732,125 (99% lead compounds releases)
2	U.S. Marine Corps MCB Camp Pendleton	Camp Pendleton	538,596 (40% nitrate compounds releases)
3	General Dynamics (Nassco)	San Diego	275,586 (44% n-butyl alcohol releases)
4	US Marine Corps Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range	Niland	127,331 (72% copper releases)
5	Spreckels Sugar Co. Inc.	Brawley	67,150 (100% ammonia releases)
6	Illumina, Inc.	San Diego	57,233 (65% acetonitrile releases)
7	U.S. Navy Naval Air Station North Island	San Diego	35,540 (39% methyl isobutyl ketone releases)
8	U.S. Marine Corps Station Miramar	San Diego	26,797 (99% lead compounds releases)
9	Dynegy South Bay LLC	Chula Vista	21,949 (100% ammonia releases)
10	Sumitomo Electric Interconnect Products Inc	San Marcos	19,020 (100% ethylene glycol releases)

## On-line Access

For national information on data releases, see:  
<http://www.epa.gov/tri>

The TRI data is available through Envirofacts Warehouse, EPA's internet site for distributing environmental information at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/enviro>

Or the TRI Explorer tool:  
<http://www.epa.gov/triexplorer>

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