



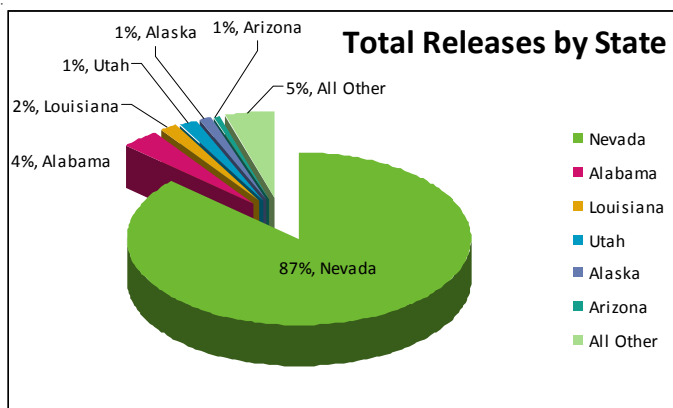
# Toxics Release Inventory 2008 Mercury Report

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

## The 2008 Data for Mercury

Mercury<sup>1</sup> is a persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) chemical. As such, it has a significantly lower Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reporting threshold (10 pounds) than do non-PBT chemicals (10 thousand or 25 thousand pounds). Metal mining is the largest source of mercury releases reported in Region 9. Other main sources of mercury releases in the Region are hazardous waste treatment and disposal, cement manufacturing, and fossil fuel electric power generation facilities.

Nevada ranks #1 in the United States for reported mercury releases, with 87% of all releases. Arizona ranks #6; California #7; and Hawaii #49.



Nevada had the largest decrease (-13%) of mercury releases, from 6.1 to 5.3 million pounds.

State	2008 Mercury Releases	Largest Releases
Nevada	5,342,778	Gold Mining
Arizona	35,700	Copper Mining
California	28,632	Hazardous Waste
Hawaii	293	Petroleum Refineries
Grand Total	5,407,403	

## Facilities with Largest Mercury Releases (Region 9)

Facility Name	State	2007	2008	Percent Change
Barrick Goldstrike Mines Inc.	Elko, NV	2,220,174	1,824,022	-18%
Newmont Mining Corp. - Carlin North Area	Eureka, NV	780,166	1,300,113	67%
Newmont Mining Corp. Twin Creeks Mine	Humboldt, NV	1,981,067	1,194,512	-40%
Newmont Mining Corp. - Carlin South Area	Eureka, NV	295,554	398,938	35%
Ruby Hill Mine	Eureka, NV	409,607	294,431	-28%
Cortez Gold Mines	Lander, NV	166,400	80,656	-52%
Bald Mountain Mine	White Pine, NV	62,228	76,632	23%
Marigold Mining Co.	Humboldt, NV	75,573	70,303	-7%
Newmont Mining Corp. Copper Canyon Facility	Lander, NV	17,004	70,004	312%
Freeport-McMoran Morenci Inc.	Greenlee, AZ	42,017	28,176	-33%

## Mercury Releases in Region 9

One hundred fifty-one facilities in Region 9 reported 5.4 million pounds of mercury releases, down 794 thousand pounds from 2007. Nevada mining facilities account for 99% of the Region's mercury releases.

The industry with the top mercury releases varies by state: Gold Mining (Nevada), Copper Mining (Arizona); Hazardous Waste Treatment and Disposal (California); Petroleum Refineries (Hawaii).

<sup>1</sup>Includes the mercury present in mercury compounds.

## Release to the Environment

Total (on- & off-site) mercury releases decreased 13% (794 thousand pounds) from 2007 to 2008. Releases to land are the largest category of releases, followed by air.

Release Desination	Reporting Year		Percent Change
	2007	2008	
Air	7,537	9,705	29%
Surface Water	6	7	28%
On-Site Land	6,191,292	5,393,817	-13%
Underground Injection	4	2	-40%
Off-site Transfer	2,927	3,872	32%
<b>Total Releases</b>	<b>6,201,766</b>	<b>5,407,403</b>	<b>-13%</b>

### 2008 Mercury Releases (in pounds) by State

State	Air	Water	On-Site Land	Underground Injection	Off-site	Total Releases
NV	4,557	0	5,337,731	-	489	5,342,778
AZ	2,049	1	32,811	-	839	35,700
CA	3,044	2	23,275	0	2,311	28,632
HI	55	4	-	2	233	293
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,705</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5,393,817</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3,872</b>	<b>5,407,403</b>

Nevada's Eureka, Elko, and Humboldt Counties released the largest amounts of mercury in 2008. The counties with the largest releases of mercury in Arizona and California are Greenlee County and Kings County, respectively.

### 10 Counties with Largest Mercury Releases (Region 9)

County	State	2008
Eureka	NV	1,993,680
Elko	NV	1,844,652
Humboldt	NV	1,267,422
Lander	NV	150,660
White Pine	NV	76,632
Greenlee	AZ	28,176
Kings	CA	14,066
Nye	NV	9,137
Imperial	CA	9,121
Kern	CA	1,896

## Industry Sectors

The gold mining industry accounts for 99% of reported mercury releases in Region 9. Among the remaining two percent, hazardous waste treatment and disposal, non-gold metal mining, and fossil fuel electric power generation are the top contributors.

### Mercury Releases (in pounds) by Industry Sector

Industry Sector	2008 Releases (lbs.)
Gold Ore Mining	5,347,387
Copper Ore and Nickel Ore Mining	31,218
Hazardous Waste Treatment and Disposal	18,372
Fossil Fuel Electric Power Generation	3,439
Cement Manufacturing	2,647
Petroleum Refineries	1,790
Other	1,766