Toxics Release Inventory Update
Imperial County-Mexico Border
Reporting Years 2008-2010

United States Environmental Protection Agency

August 2012

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

Imperial County Border Releases

In 2010, 3 facilities, located within 100 km of the California-Mexico border, reported a total of 2,658,863 pounds of toxic chemical releases. Imperial County's total reported on-site and off-site releases decreased 9% (267,743 pounds), when compared to 2009 data.

What is a Release?

A Toxics Release Inventory (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; it is measured in pounds, unless stated otherwise.

Total Releases for Reporting Years 2008 – 2010

Year	Air	On-Site Land	Total Releases
2008	83,853	4,176,405	4,260,258
2009	73,470	2,853,136	2,926,606
2010	95,833	2,563,030	2,658,863

Releases to the Environment

Air: Air releases increased 30% (22,363 pounds) since 2009.

On-Site Land: Total on-site land releases decreased by 10% (290,106 pounds) since 2009.

Total On- and Off-site Disposal or Other Releases: Total on- and off-site disposal or other releases decreased 9% (267,743 pounds) since 2009.

Facilities with Largest Chemical Releases

The three facilities in Imperial County that reported to the TRI were the following:

	Facility Name	Address	Industry	Total Releases (pounds)	% of Total
1	MESQUITE MINE	BRAWLEY, CA 92227	Gold Ore Mining	2,405,198	90%
2	US MARINE CORPS CHOCOLATE MOUNTAINS AERIAL GUNNERY RANGE	NILAND, CA 92257	Beet Sugar Manufacturing	157,881	6%
3	SPRECKELS SUGAR CO. INC.	BRAWLEY, CA 92227	National Security	95,784	4%
	GRAND TOTAL			2,658,863	100%

Top 9 Released Chemicals

The top released chemicals based on total on-site and off-site releases in Imperial County were the following:

	Chemical	On-Site Land	Air	Total Releases (pounds)	% of Total
1	LEAD & LEAD COMPOUNDS	2,421,202	1,685	2,422,887	91%
2	COPPER	116,937	-	116,937	4%
3	AMMONIA	4,100	91,500	95,600	4%
4	MERCURY COMPOUNDS	20,641	3	20,644	1%
5	CYANIDE COMPOUNDS	-	2,620	2,620	0%
6	NITRATE COMPOUNDS	150	-	150	0%
7	NAPHTHALENE	-	25	25	0%
8	ALUMINUM (FUME OR DUST)	-	-	-	0%
9	NITROGLYCERIN	-	-	-	0%
	GRAND TOTAL	2,563,030	95,833	2,658,863	100%

Note: "0%" means less than 0.5%.

Note: If no release amounts are shown, this means the facility manufactures, processes, or otherwise uses above threshold amounts of the chemical, which triggers a requirement to report. It may still have no releases.

In determining release quantities for metal compounds, facilities only consider the primary metal portion of the compound. For instance, a facility reporting for lead compounds only reports the lead portion of the lead compounds released.

Industry Breakdown

The largest share of releases of lead and lead compounds (98%) was from on-site land disposal at Mesquite Mine.

Facility Releases

MESQUITE MINE

Chemical	Air	Other Surface Impoundments	Other Land Disposal	Total Releases (pounds)
CYANIDE COMPOUNDS	2,620	-	-	2,620
LEAD COMPOUNDS	8	-	2,381,776	2,381,784
MERCURY COMPOUNDS	3	-	20,641	20,644
NITRATE COMPOUNDS	-	-	150	150
GRAND TOTAL	2,631	-	2,402,567	2,405,198

SPRECKELS SUGAR CO. INC.

Chemical	Air	Other Surface Impoundments	Other Land Disposal	Total Releases (pounds)
AMMONIA	91,500	4,100	-	95,600
LEAD COMPOUNDS	11	173	-	184
GRAND TOTAL	91,511	4,273	-	95,784

US MARINE CORPS CHOCOLATE MOUNTAINS AERIAL GUNNERY RANGE

Chemical	Air	Other Surface Impoundments	Other Land Disposal	Total Releases (pounds)
ALUMINUM (FUME OR DUST)	-	-	-	-
COPPER	-	-	116,937	116,937
LEAD COMPOUNDS	1,666	-	-	1,666
NAPHTHALENE	25	-	-	25
NITROGLYCERIN	-	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL	1,691		116,937	118,628

On-line Access

For more information, see:

www.epa.gov/tri
(For national TRI information)

www.epa.gov/region09/tri
(For Regional TRI information)

Or contact Lily Lee, Toxic Release Inventory Coordinator, US EPA Region 9, at lee.lily@epa.gov or 415-947-4187.

Release data alone are not sufficient to determine exposure or to calculate potential risks to human health and the environment. TRI data, in conjunction with other information, such as the toxicity of the chemical, the release medium (e.g., air), and site-specific conditions, can be used as a starting point in evaluating exposures that may result from releases of toxic chemicals.