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PITTSBURGH, PA, January 7, 2025 – The [Environmental Health Project](#) (EHP) released its newest health analysis tool, “**Compounds of Concern**.”

The [Compounds of Concern](#) tool provides users with easy-to-understand details on exposure symptoms and health impacts of chemical compounds associated with industrial operations, including oil and gas facilities. EHP staff demonstrated how to access and use the tool, which centers on an easily searched interactive database of compounds.

“EHP designed the Compounds of Concern tool because residents living near industry, such as shale gas wells or power plants, were having health issues, and they didn’t know why,” said **Nathan Deron**, EHP’s Program Manager. “These frontline residents needed to better understand what compounds industries were emitting and how those compounds might play a part in their health.”

The Compounds of Concern tool identifies compounds (including a wide range of toxic chemicals), where they might originate from, and how they may impact systems and organs of the body (respiratory system, circulatory system, etc.).

“This interactive tool is easy to use and connects the dots between sources of pollution, the compounds released, and how they affect the body,” said **Sanjana Parmar**, EHP’s Environmental Data Analyst. “Anyone can find the information they want with a few simple clicks. If they know the compounds they may have been exposed to, residents have a better chance of protecting their health and the health of their families.”

“Compounds of Concern can be a key tool for residents who experience health complications,” said **Jackson Zeiler**, EHP’s Public Health Analyst. “For example, if you’re having trouble breathing and want to know what compound may be causing that symptom, you can find possible answers with this tool. Or, if you hear about the release of a chemical compound from a nearby facility in the news, you can find out more about what that compound is, how it’s used, and its related health effects.”

The screenshot displays the 'Compounds of Concern' web application. The top navigation bar includes 'Compounds of Concern', 'Home', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- RESPIRATORY SYSTEM:** A central graphic of a human torso with red lungs, surrounded by icons for various organs like the heart, kidneys, and stomach.
- Compounds:** A search bar with the text 'Search Compound' and 'Type to filter...'. Below it is a 'Reset All Filters' button and a list of chemical compounds with radio buttons. The list includes: 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane, 1,2-Dibromoethane, 1,2-Dichloropropane, Acetaldehyde, Acetonitrile, Acrolein, Arsenic, inorganic compounds, Benzene, Benzo(a)pyrene, Beryllium, beta-Chloroprene, Butadiene (1,3-Butadiene), Cadmium, Carbon tetrachloride, Chlorine, Ethylene oxide, Formaldehyde (selected), Mercury, n-Hexane, Naphthalene, Nitrogen Dioxide, Ozone, p-Dichlorobenzene, Styrene, and Toluene.
- Filters:** A section with two columns: 'Symptoms' (Abdominal Pain, Bone Pain, Chest Pain, Chronic Beryllium Disease (lung)) and 'Source' (Pulp and Paper Processing, Glues and Adhesives, Leather Tanning and Processing, Photographic Processing).
- Details:** A section for 'Compound - Formaldehyde'. It includes:
 - Affected Organs:** Target organs/systems: Respiratory System.
 - Symptoms:** Eye Irritation, Respiratory Issues, Skin Rashes, Headaches, Nausea.
 - Pathways of Exposure:** Inhalation.
 - Health Risk:** Carcinogenic: Probable. MRL / RfC: 0.006 ppm. MRL / RfC duration: Chronic. A note explains Minimal Risk Level (MRL) and Reference Concentration (RfC).
 - Source:** A dropdown menu.

Research has shown a variety of potential negative health effects relating to shale gas development and the petrochemical buildout impacting virtually every part of the body. The sheer volume of compounds emitted, paired with the potentially widespread impacts and symptoms that may be experienced, pose difficulties for frontline residents seeking information to protect and improve their health. To simplify the search for information pertaining to this wide array of compounds and their effects on health, EHP cross-referenced the list of 600 compounds. The Compounds of Concern tool was first launched with a set of compounds that were prioritized for the hazards they pose to human health. Now, EHP is continuously adding new compounds in response to the public's need for a comprehensive resource addressing industrial pollution exposure.

Compounds of Concern is the second new health and environment tool EHP has released this year. In April, EHP launched [AirView Public](#), a free tool designed to help communities understand their air quality so that they can better protect residents from pollution harms. This online tool provides access to air quality readings alongside weather and pollution dispersion information. With AirView Public's pollution mapping feature, users can view the path that air took to arrive at monitoring locations when those monitors recorded high pollution levels.

About the Environmental Health Project

The [Environmental Health Project](#) (EHP) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit public health organization that defends public health in the face of shale gas development. EHP provides frontline communities with timely monitoring, interpretation, and guidance while engaging diverse stakeholders: health professionals, researchers, community organizers, policy makers, and others.

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