

## Shelly Asphalt pollution and our health

### Soot

- Irritation of the airways, coughing, and difficulty breathing
- Decreased lung function
- Aggravated asthma
- Chronic bronchitis
- Irregular heartbeat
- Nonfatal heart attacks
- Premature death in people with heart or lung disease
- Staining and damage of stone and other materials, including statues, monuments and homes
- Particles can be carried over long distances by wind and then settle on ground or water, making lakes and streams acidic; changing the nutrient balance in coastal waters and large river basins; depleting the nutrients in soil; damaging forests, gardens, and farm crops; and destroying ecosystems

### Sulfur Dioxide

- Bronchoconstriction
- Increased asthma symptoms
- Respiratory illnesses, especially in children, elderly and asthmatics
- Emphysema
- Bronchitis
- Aggravate existing heart disease
- Increased hospital admissions
- Death

### Carbon Monoxide

- Fatigue
- Chest pain
- Impaired vision and coordination
- Headaches, dizziness, nausea
- Angina
- Impaired vision
- Reduced brain function
- Death

### Nitrogen Oxide

- Respiratory issues
- Asthma
- Emphysema and bronchitis
- In the presence of heat and sunlight it reacts with volatile organic compounds to create ozone. Ozone can damage human lungs, especially those of children, older people, people with asthma, and people who work outside
- Aggravate existing heart disease
- Death

### Lead

- Damages the nervous system, kidney function, immune system, reproductive and developmental systems, and cardiovascular system
- Low amounts of lead can cause learning disabilities and behavioral problems in infants and young children
- In adults- cardiovascular effects such as high blood pressure and heart disease
- Decreased growth and reproductive rates in plants and animals, neurological effects in vertebrates

For more information on toxics and our health visit the Environmental Working Group website: <http://www.ewg.org/>.