

# Shelby County's **Terrible Ten** Your Right to Know About Toxic Pollution!

The Sierra Club is publishing this list of Shelby County's top ten active polluters to be used as a public education tool to raise awareness as we all strive for a more safe and sustainable environment. Although the data used to create this report is public information, for some, it may not be easily accessed. It is important that the community have knowledge of the levels of toxic pollution in order to be effective in the public participation processes that assist in the enforcement of environmental regulations and policies. As the public becomes more aware of the dangerous health effects of pollution, it is our hope that government, industry, and citizens will band together to find ways to reduce, find substitutes, and eventually eliminate hazardous substances from negatively impacting our lives. The numbers in this report cannot alone measure the level of danger that these chemical substances pose. For example, five pounds of one substance may represent more danger than a thousand pounds of another. Please note that the most current estimates available from EPA are almost two years old. This report is meant to be helpful in identifying who is releasing large amounts of toxins in your neighborhood, and the known health effects of a wide variety of chemical substances that are emitted into our air, water, and land each day. Reducing pollution and/or better emergency planning might be topics for your next encounter with industry officials in your community.

All of the companies cited in this report have permits for the emissions that are listed. But it must be pointed out that these substances are classified toxic by the EPA or Environmental Protection Agency because scientific studies have shown they pose a threat to human health, and to the environment. Prior to 1986 citizens had no sure way of knowing what chemicals were produced in their community, but the landmark 1986 Emergency Planning and Community Right To Know Act (commonly referred to as EPCRA) requires industries to self-report estimates of their annual emissions. This self-reporting is called the Toxic Release Inventory and allows community residents, environmental advocates and anyone concerned about the health of their community to monitor industrial emissions.

## **Terrible Ten** Industries of Memphis, TN & Shelby County

(According to the 2005 Toxics Release Inventory)

1. TVA Allen Fossil Plant-----3,624,293 lbs.
2. Quebecor Printing-----1,198,475 lbs.
3. Cargill Inc.-----1,009,874 lbs.
4. Lucite International-----778,340 lbs.
5. Crompton-----409,632 lbs.
6. DuPont Memphis Plant-----285,899.6 lbs.
7. Premcor (Valero) Refinery---158,823.3 lbs.
8. Southern Cotton Oil-----134,003 lbs.
9. Great Dane Trucking-----108,923 lbs.
10. Fleischmann's Yeast-----72,084 lbs.

### This report is produced by:



*For additional information, a speaker for your group, a Toxic Tour, or for more copies of this report, please contact:*

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### **EPCRA law has three main functions:**

1. Emergency Notification & Planning provisions require industries to make available to the public potential toxic hazards and plan adequately for emergencies.
2. Community Right to Know makes available to the public important information about toxic chemical emissions from local industries, as well as what substances, and how much might be stored on-site.
3. The Toxics Release Inventory is a self-reporting system requiring certain facilities to file annual reports with the EPA: it covers 632 regulated toxic chemicals, however there are over 80,000 chemical substances in daily use across the U.S.

### **Additional Internet Resources:**

- [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) - Environmental Protection Agency
- [www.rtk.net](http://www.rtk.net) - Right-To-Know Network
- [www.scorecard.org](http://www.scorecard.org) - Environmental Scorecard

# What Do the Terrible Ten Emit?

## 1. TVA Allen Fossil Plant – 2574 Plant Rd. Memphis, TN 38109 **Total Pounds: 3,624,293**

Chemical	Where to & Amount			Health Effects
Ammonia	Air: 39,600	Water: 250		AT__ET__CT
Arsenic	Air: 250	Water: 755		
Barium Compounds	Air: 2,605	Water: 9,205	Land: 220,000	NT
Benzo(G,H,I) Perylene	Air: 0.1		Land: 0.1	Unknown
Chromium	Air: 500	Water: 250	Land: 4,700	
Copper	Air: 250	Water: 2,600	Land: 5,800	DT__RT__CT
Dioxin	Air: 1			C__DT
Hydrochloric Acid	Air: 2,600,005			AT__CT
Hydrogen Fluoride	Air: 190,005			DT__NT__RT
Lead Compounds	Air: 142.8		Land: 1,100	
Manganese Compounds	Air: 500		Land: 14,000	NT
Mercury Compounds	Air: 180	Water: 9		C__DT__RT__CT__NT
Naphthalene	Air: 255			
Nickel Compounds	Air: 255		Land: 4,100	
Polycyclic Aromatic Cmpds	Air: 16		Land: 4.5	C__CT__RT
Sulfuric Acid	Air: 500,005			AT__CT__ET
Thallium	Air: 250		Land: 3,200	
Vanadium Compounds	Air: 250	Water: 2,300	Land: 11,000	Respiratory & Immunotoxicant
Zinc Compounds	Air: 750	Water: 1,100	Land: 8,100	DT__RT

*ALSO: Water discharges go to: Unnamed tributary to Nonconnah Lake & Mississippi River*

## 2. Quebecor Printing - 828 E. Holmes Road Memphis, TN 38116 **Total Pounds: 1,198,475**

Chemical	Where to & Amount		Health Effects
Toluene	Air: 1,189,080		DT__RT__ET
Xylene (Mixed Isomers)	Air: 9,395		DT__RT__ET

## 3. Cargill Inc. - 2330 Buoy Street Memphis, TN 38113 **Total Pounds: 1,009,874**

Chemical	Where to & Amount		Health Effects
Acetaldehyde	Air: 75,520		
Chloroform	Air: 114,000		CT
Hydrochloric Acid	Air: 603,700		AT__CT
Lead	Air: 3,400		
Mercury	Air: 25		DT__CT__RT__NT
Methanol	Air: 162,129		
Sulfuric Acid	Air: 51,100		AT__CT__ET

## 4. Lucite International – 2665 Fite Rd. Memphis, TN 38127 **Total Pounds: 778,340**

Chemical	Where to & Amount		Health Effects
2-Methylacetonitrile	Air: 9,100		
Butyl Acrylate	Air: 3,480		Respiratory & Immunotoxicant
Hydrogen Cyanide	Air: 75,860		AT__CT__ET
Methanol	Air: 284,000		NT
Methyl Methacrylate	Air: 280,000		RT__CT
Sulfuric Acid	Air: 76,000		AT__CT__ET
Toluene	Air: 49,900		DT__RT__ET

**5. Crompton** - 1231 Pope Street Memphis, TN 38108

**Total Pounds: 409,632**

Chemical	Where to & Amount		Health Effects
Ammonia	Air: 407,867	Water: 250	AT__CT__ET
Ethylene Glycol	Air: 10		DT__NT__CT
Methanol	Air: 1,500		DT__NT
Zinc Compounds		Water: 5	DT__RT

**6. Dupont Memphis Plant** - 2571 Fite Rd. Memphis, TN 38127

**Total Pounds: 285,899**

Chemical	Where to & Amount			Health Effects
Acetonitrile	Air: 58,100		Land: 2	DT__NT__RT
2-Methylactonitrile	Air: 1			
Acrylonitrile	Air: 1,418			C__DT__RT__AT__ET
Ammonia	Air: 168,360	Water: 124	Land: 7	AT__CT__ET
Cyanide Compounds	Air: 1,495			NT
Hydrogen Cyanide	Air: 56,327			AT__CT__ET
Mercury	Air: 6.6			DT__RT__CT__NT
Methyl Isobutyl Ketone	Air: 59			CT__NT
Triethylamine	Air: 15			NT

*Also: Water discharges go to the Loosahatchie River*



**SOUND THE ALARM!** Tell the EPA to Keep Information about Toxic Pollution Public! The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), our country's source of information on toxic pollution releases, has come under attack by the EPA. The EPA has proposed downsizing the inventory and restricting our right-to-know about toxic emissions in our own neighborhoods.

**Health Effects Codes:**

Check the codes. The figures listed represent the amount of the chemical substance released and is measured in pounds. The adverse health effects of each substance are coded, or if information is limited or unknown, it is listed as unknown.

**C - Carcinogen** – Chemical proven by multiple scientific studies to cause cancer.

**HG - Heritable Genetic Mutagen** – Chemical that can change the genetic materials (genes and chromosomes) that regulate programs of growth and development. These changes can be passed on to children.

**DT - Developmental Toxicant** - Chemical that can cause an embryo or fetus to die (miscarriages) or to cause birth defects.

**RT - Reproductive Toxicant** – Chemical that can harm the ability of either women or men to reproduce.

**AT - Acute Toxicant** – Chemical which can cause death even from short exposures by breathing, swallowing or touching.

**CT - Chronic Toxicant** – Chemical that can cause long-term damage other than cancer, for example, liver or kidney disease.

**NT – Neurotoxicant** – Chemical which can cause harm to the nervous system by affecting the brain, spinal cord, or nerves.

**7. Premcor Refinery** - 543 W. Mallory Ave., Memphis, TN 38109

**Total Pounds: 158,823**

Chemical	Where to & Amount	Health Effects
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	Air: 1,760	NT__RT
1,3-Butadiene	Air: 1,820	Unknown
Ammonia	Air: 620	AT__CT__ET
Antimony Compds.	Air: 5	C__RT
Benzene	Air: 4,400      Water: 10	C__DT__RT__NT
Benzo(G,H,I)Perylene	Air: 3	Unknown
Carbon Disulfide	Air: 900	DT__RT__NT
Certain Glycol Ethers	Air: 10	DT__NT__RT
Cresol (Mixed Isomers)	Air: 0      Water: 15	NT
Cumene	Air: 500	NT
Cyanide Compds.	Air: 100	NT
Cyclohexane	Air: 2,600	NT
Dioxin & Dioxin Compds.	Air: 0.3	DT__C
Ethylbenzene	Air: 2,200      Water: 15	C__DT__NT__RT
Ethylene	Air: 8,800	NT
Hydrochloric Acid	Air: 250	AT__CT
Hydrogen Cyanide	Air: 70	AT__CT__ET
Hydrogen Fluoride	Air: 750	DT__NT__RT
Lead	Air: 64      Water: 245	C__DT__RT__NT
Mercury	Air: 8	DT__RT__CT__NT
Molybdenum Trioxide	Air: 5	NT__C__RT
N-Hexane	Air: 7,600	DT__NT
Naphthalene	Air: 2,900	DT__NT__C__RT
Nickel	Air: 500	C__DT__CT__RT
Phenol	Air: 670      Water: 260	DT__NT__RT
Polycyclic Aromatic Cmpds	Air: 930	CT__C__RT
Propylene	Air: 18,200	RT
Styrene	Air: 250	DT__C__NT__RT__AT
Sulfuric Acid	Air: 83,828	AT__CT__ET
Toluene	Air: 9,000      Water: 15	DT__RT__ET
Xylene (Mixed Isomers)	Air: 9,500      Water: 15	DT__RT__ET

**8. Southern Cotton Oil** - 2782 Chelsea Memphis, TN 38108

**Total Pounds: 134,003**

Chemical	Where to & Amount	Health Effects
N-Hexane	Air: 134,000	DT__NT
Naphthalene	Air: 3	

**9. Great Dane L.P** - 1095 Harbor Ave. Memphis, TN 38113

**Total Pounds: 108,923**

Chemical	Where to & Amount	Health Effects
Methyl Isobutal Ketone	Air: 47,223	CT__NT
Toluene	Air: 40,293	DT__RT__ET
Xylene	Air: 21,407	DT__RT__ET

**10. Fleischmann's Yeast** - 2743 Riverport Road Memphis, TN 38109

**Total Pounds: 72,084**

Chemical	Where to & Amount	Health Effects
Acetaldehyde	Air: 72,084	C__DT__NT__RT



## Who Should You Call?

Ask Questions!  
Get Involved!  
Take Action!

**TN Dept. of Environment & Conservation:**  
(Nashville) Toll-Free 1-888-891-8332

**The Poison Center Hotline:**  
1-800-222-1222

**Home Land Security:**  
1-800-237-3239

**TN Dept. of Environment & Conservation:**  
(Memphis Field Office) - 368-7939

**Toxic Chemical Spills & Oil Spills:**  
1-800-262-3300

**TN Dept. of Environment & Conservation:**  
Environmental Justice & Title VI Coordinator  
Costin Shamble - (615) 253-8337

**EPA National Environmental Justice Office:**  
Charles Lee, Director - Toll Free 1-800-962-6215

**EPA Region 4 - Environmental Justice Office:**  
(Atlanta) 1-404-562-9649

**The American Lung Association:**  
1-800-LUNGUSA (Public Relations & etc.)

**Health Department Pollution Control (Complaints):**  
Air, Water, Land Concerns (Local) 544-7849 or 7775

**Emergency Management Agency:** 515-2525  
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) 458-1515

**Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry:**  
(ATSDR) Info Center 1-800-232-4636

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### Get the Facts:

*The following facts were found at the Scorecard website ([www.scorecard.org](http://www.scorecard.org)).*

- There are 218 TRI chemicals released to the air in the US that lack exposure estimates for an adequate safety assessment.
- Shelby County ranks among the highest ranking counties in the US in cancer risk related to air & water toxic releases.
- Shelby County is in the 90 to 100 percentile range in air releases of known cancer causing substances.
- Shelby County is among the top ranking counties with the most releases of known substances that cause developmental damage in children, liver & kidney damage, nerve damage, and reproductive damage.



**Contaminated Water  
means  
Contaminated Fish**

Fish should not be consumed from the Loosahatchie River, Wolf River, Mississippi River, McKeller Lake, or Nonconnah Creek. Chlordane and other organic pollutants have been found in all of the above water bodies. (See TN Fishing Advisory, [www.state.tn.us/twra/fish/contaminants](http://www.state.tn.us/twra/fish/contaminants))



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*Place  
Stamp  
Here!*

*"...to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment..."*  
*Sierra Club Mission Statement*

## ASK QUESTIONS!

You have a right to know about pollution control, emergency management plans, and community safety!

*Get to know the company officials in your area and ask about their plans to reduce greenhouse gases that cause global warming, what they are doing to reduce pollution overall, and ask if their emergency planning process includes community members who live near their plant!*

TVA Allen Fossil Plant  
Michael Broder, Tech Contact  
2574 Plant Rd.  
Memphis, TN 38109  
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Crompton Corporation  
Richard Kesling, Tech Contact  
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