

Occupational & Environmental Health

News

Would A Rose Not Smell as Sweet? Problems Stem from the Cut Flower Industry

There is concern that the broad array of fresh cut flowers now available may come at a high environmental and human health cost to the developing countries where many of these flowers are grown. Studies are just beginning to document the neurotoxic, reproductive, and genetic effects of working in the floriculture industry.

D. Tenenbaum, EHP, vol. 110, no. 5, May 2002

Reflections on Hexavalent Chromium: Health Hazards of an Industrial Heavyweight

Hexavalent chromium has been used commercially in the United States for more than 100 years. But, although scientists know that hexavalent chromium is a human carcinogen and that it can cause other deleterious health effects including kidney and liver damage, certain questions remain about the metal's effects.

S. Booker and C. Pellerin, EHP, vol. 108, no. 9, September 2000

Where the Chips Fall: Environmental Health in the Semiconductor Industry

To manufacture computer components, the semiconductor industry uses large amounts of hazardous chemicals including hydrochloric acid, toxic metals and gases, and volatile solvents. Little is known about the long-term health consequences of exposure to these chemicals by semiconductor workers. According to industry critics, the semiconductor industry also causes groundwater and air pollution and generates toxic waste as a by-product of the semiconductor manufacturing process.

R. Chepesiuk, EHP, vol. 107, no. 9, September 1999

Under Construction: Building a Safer Industry

Concerned consumers, builders, materials manufacturers, and government regulatory agencies have all contributed to a turn toward "green" building materials and practices, meaning that homeowners and office workers now are better able to live and work in healthier environments, and many construction workers are handling and installing less-toxic materials.

J. Tibbetts, EHP, vol. 110, no. 3, March 2002

Research

Paternal Occupational Exposures and Childhood Cancer

This study compared the cancer incidence among children of exposed fathers to that among children of unexposed fathers. The main findings were an increased risk of nervous system tumors related to paternal occupational exposure to pesticides and work as a painter, and an increased risk of leukemia related to wood work by fathers.

M. Feychting et al., EHP, vol. 109, no. 2, February 2001

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