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From: Maier, Brent
Sent: Tue 1/26/2016 7:55:37 PM
Subject: U.S. EPA Press Release: U.S. EPA Resource Helps Schools Reduce Exposure to Traffic-Related Air Pollution

Dear Colleagues:

The following press release is being issued today to media in **Nevada** by the EPA Region IX press office. A Spanish version of this press release was sent to Hispanic media. If you have questions or need any additional information, please give me a call.

Regards,

Brent Maier

Congressional Liaison
Telephone: 415.947.4256

For Immediate Release: January 26, 2015
Media Contact: Nahal Mogharabi, Mogharabi.nahal@epa.gov, 213-244-1815

U.S. EPA Resource Helps Schools Reduce Exposure to Traffic-Related Air Pollution

LOS ANGELES--The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a document to give schools and parents ideas on how to reduce children's exposure to traffic-related air pollution. When schools are located close to busy roads, students can be exposed to unhealthy levels of air pollution. The new document, *Best Practices for Reducing Near-Road Pollution Exposure at Schools,* offers strategies for limiting exposure, including ventilation and filtration, school siting and layout decisions, anti-idling policies, bus fleet upgrades, sound walls, vegetative barriers, and other actions staff can take.

"Our children are especially vulnerable to air pollution, which can damage their growing lungs," said Jared Blumenfeld, EPA's Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. "This new report gives school officials and parents multiple ways to limit their students' exposures to the pollutants from traffic."

Children are sensitive because their respiratory systems are not fully developed, and they are more active and breathe more rapidly than adults. Children are also more likely than adults to have asthma. In particular, low income and minority children are disproportionately impacted by asthma and are more likely to live and attend school near major roadways.

The document also contains a school ventilation checklist and links to additional resources for achieving clean, green and healthy school environments. EPA created this document in response to interest from parents, schools and public health advocates who have been wanting to help reduce traffic-related air pollution exposure.

Nearly 17,000 U.S. schools are located within 1/10th of a mile of a major road. In **Nevada**, nearly 20,000 children are in schools where heavy traffic may influence air

quality. While the EPA has achieved major successes in reducing common pollutants by roughly 99% from cars and trucks since the creation of the Clean Air Act, schools may still be located in areas where air pollution levels are elevated.

The Best Practices document is available at http://www2.epa.gov/schools/best-practices-reducing-near-road-air-pollution-exposure-schools.

For today's EPA blog on "Putting the Brakes on Traffic-Related Pollution" please go to: https://blog.epa.gov/blog/2016/01/cars-and-trucks-and-things-that-go/

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Brent Maier

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