



# It's Your Right to Know: Introduction to the Toxics Release Inventory

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# Common Questions About Chemicals



*Are industries in my town **increasing** or **reducing** the amounts of chemicals they release to the environment?*



*What are the **top chemicals released** in my town?  
How much is being released and **by whom**?*



*Does the factory near my daughter's school release **cancer-causing chemicals**?*

**EPA's Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) can help you find the answers!**



# Overview

- What is the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)?
- Why is it important to communities?
- How can you access TRI data?
- What can you do about toxic releases in your community?
- Whom can you contact for more information about TRI?

# What is the TRI?

- A publicly accessible **information resource** about toxic chemical releases from certain industrial and federal facilities in the U.S.
- Facility-reported data on chemical releases to air, water, and land, plus pollution prevention practices, **all in one place**.
- Available through **multiple online tools**, many of which add context to help make the reported data more understandable.
- Annual reporting makes it one of EPA's **most current datasets**
- EPA receives TRI reporting forms from approximately **20,000 facilities each year** for more than **500 chemicals**.



# Why Was the TRI Created?

## Bhopal, India December 1984

- Methyl isocyanate gas was released at a Union Carbide chemical plant.
- Thousands died the first night and thousands more afterward. Survivors continue to suffer with permanent disabilities.

## Institute, West Virginia August 1985

- Aldicarb oxide and four other chemicals were released at a Union Carbide facility. More than 100 people were hospitalized.

- These events led to increased concern among Americans about local preparedness for chemical emergencies and the availability of information on hazardous substances.
- Congress passed and President Reagan signed the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) in 1986, as part of the U.S. response.
- Section 313 of EPCRA created the TRI.



Bhopal memorial for those killed and disabled by the 1984 toxic gas release.

# Your “Right to Know”

- We all have the right to know about toxic chemicals releases that we may be exposed to in our daily lives.
- This principle is authorized under Section 313 of EPCRA.
- The TRI Program’s mission: collect, maintain, and provide access to chemical management information, including environmental releases
- TRI information helps people make more informed decisions that impact health and the environment.



# Why is the TRI Important for Communities?

## TRI can help communities:

- **Identify** how many TRI facilities operate in or near communities and where they are located.
- **Identify** which chemicals are being released by TRI facilities.
- **Track** increases or reductions of toxic chemical releases from facilities over time.
- **Compare** the toxic chemical releases and pollution prevention efforts of facilities in one location with similar facilities across the country.
- **Prioritize** efforts to advance pollution reduction in sectors, chemicals, or facilities in the area.

# What Facilities Must Report?

TRI requires reporting from facilities that meet these three requirements:

- In a covered industry sector, including:



**Manufacturing**



**Federal Facilities**



**Coal/Oil Electricity  
Generation**



**Certain Mining  
Facilities**



**Hazardous Waste  
Management**

- Have 10 or more full-time employees (or equivalent)
- Manufacture, process, or otherwise use more than a certain amount of a TRI-listed toxic chemical per year





# What Chemicals are Covered?

- TRI covers an important subset of chemicals.
- In general, chemicals on the TRI list are those that cause:
  - Cancer or other chronic human health effects
  - Adverse acute human health effects
  - Significant adverse environmental effects

# What Information do Facilities Report?

**EPA**  
United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

**FORM R**  
Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community  
Right-to-Know Act of 1986, also Known as Title III of  
Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act

Complete form online via TRI-MEweb. For a trade secret submission, send completed forms to TRI Rep  
annual public burden related to the Form R is estimated to average 35.71 hours per response for a facility.  
Instructions for more information on submissions and the Paperwork Reduction Act.

This section only applies if you are revising or withdrawing a previously submitted form, otherwise leave blank.

**Revision (Enter up to two code(s))**

- Releases of TRI chemicals at the facility
- Other waste management activities involving TRI chemicals at the facility
  - recycling, burning for energy recovery, treatment for destruction
- Transfers of TRI chemicals in waste going to off-site locations for further management
- Newly implemented source reduction (pollution prevention) activities

See [www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/common-tri-terms](http://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/common-tri-terms) for definitions

# What is a Release?



- Refers to different ways that toxic chemical waste from facilities enters the air, water, and land (e.g., discharging, spilling, injecting, etc.).
- The likelihood of human exposure to chemicals depends on many factors, including what pollution controls were applied to waste streams before a release occurred, the type of release (stack emissions, discharge to streams, landfill disposal, etc.), the amount released, the chemical properties, etc.

# Is it Safe to Live Near Facilities That Release Toxic Chemicals?



The answer depends on many factors:

- How much has been released?
- How toxic are the chemicals?
- Where did the chemicals go?
- How much of the chemicals did people breathe, eat or drink?
- How often and how long were people exposed?
- Were the exposed people in a high-risk group?

*Note: many of the releases from TRI facilities are regulated under various EPA programs and requirements designed to limit harm to people's health and the environment.*

# Adding Context to TRI Data: Risk-Screening Scores

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- Scores come from EPA's Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) model
- Account for the **quantity** of releases, but also chemical **toxicity** and potential for human **exposure**
- Can be compared to **help determine relative potential risk** posed by facilities, chemicals, industry sectors
- Can help communities identify and prioritize potential concerns




# TRI and Pollution Prevention



- The goal of pollution prevention (P2) is to eliminate or reduce the creation of pollutants (also called “source reduction”).
- The TRI tracks industry progress toward this goal and collects data about effective P2 practices.
- TRI can be used to:
  - Identify facilities that are implementing P2 to reduce their toxic emissions.
  - Promote possible “tech transfer” of a facility’s P2 activities to similar facilities that could benefit from improvements.

Learn more at [www.epa.gov/tri/p2](http://www.epa.gov/tri/p2)

# Annual TRI Data Collection, Publication, and Analysis Cycle



## January 1

Facilities begin to prepare and submit reporting forms covering waste management activities that occurred during the previous calendar year (e.g., 2022)

## January - March

EPA publishes TRI National Analysis, based on dataset from last October (e.g., 2021)

## July 1

Reporting forms due to EPA (e.g., 2022)

## Late July

Preliminary data available (e.g., 2022)

## July-October

Ongoing data processing and data quality checks (e.g., 2022)

## Late October

Verified data are available in all online TRI tools and National Analysis preparation starts. (e.g., 2022)

# TRI Toxics Tracker:

Find TRI facilities and learn about toxic chemicals in your community

Find facilities near your current location or another area

**EPA** TRI Toxics Tracker [How to Search](#)

**New Search**

Map of TRI Facilities  
Facilities Summary  
Releases  
Waste Managed  
Pollution Prevention  
Potential Risk  
Chemicals

Open full version of [TRI Toxics Tracker](#) with more data and expanded capabilities.

Search below to view summary information reported by TRI facilities in the **most recent reporting year**.

Use the search features to identify industrial facilities in your community that release chemicals into the air, water, and land, or manage the waste through other methods. Learn what chemicals these facilities release, efforts to reduce releases, and potential health impacts associated with the chemical releases.

Address | State, County, City or ZIP Code | Metro Area | Watershed | Tribal Land | TRI Facility Name

Enter an address or select a location to search for facilities.

Search by address, place name, city, ZIP Code...

State [My location isn't listed](#)

County City ZIP Code

Or, use your current location.

Then: [View search results](#)



# More About Toxics Tracker

EPA
TRI Toxics Tracker
[How to Search](#)

Summary of 91 TRI facilities within 10 miles of 60005, Arlington Heights, Illinois
[BACK](#)
[FORWARD](#)

[New Search](#)

[Map of TRI Facilities](#)

**Facilities Summary**

[Releases](#)

[Waste Managed](#)

[Pollution Prevention](#)

[Potential Risk](#)

[Chemicals](#)

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[Open full version of TRI Toxics Tracker](#)

with more data and expanded capabilities.

*Most Recent Reporting Year: 2021*

## Map of TRI Facilities - Reporting Year 2021

MORE INFO
FULLSCREEN
PRINT

To view data about an individual facility, click on the facility location and then the green checkmark button. Next, select "Facilities Summary" from the left menu to find basic facility information, an EJ report and demographic statistics.

**Total Releases by Facility in 2021**

- 0 lb
- >0 - 100 lb
- 101 - 10,000 lb
- 10,001 - 100,000 lb
- 100,001 - 1,000,000 lb
- >1,000,000 lb

**Dot size represents:**

- Releases (lb)
- Potential Risk Score

**Dot color represents:**

- Releases (lb)
- Industry Sector

**Map Options**

Change your search radius

Miles:

Show other EPA-regulated facilities

Hide demographic data

**National Percentiles for Demographic Index**

Census block groups on the map are colored based on the selected indicator's [percentage value and national percentile](#). Data are based on EJScreen.

Percentiles	Percentages
95 - 100	≥ 78.59
90 - 95	< 78.59
80 - 90	< 69.84
70 - 80	< 56.19
60 - 70	< 45.01
50 - 60	< 36.05
< 50	< 29.04
No data	N/A

[Change indicator](#)

Default View
Satellite View

Map facility locations

Overlay demographic information

# Facility Data in Toxics Tracker

Compare facilities

Get data for an individual facility

**EPA TRI Toxics Tracker**  
 Summary of 1 TRI facility within 10 miles of 60005, Arlington Heights, Illinois

**Releases** [MORE INFO](#)

A "release" refers to different ways that toxic chemicals from industrial facilities enter the air, water and land. Releases include spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping, or disposing into the environment.

[By Chemical](#) [Trend by Media and Year](#)

**Total Disposal or Other Releases by Chemical for 2021**  
 Total Releases: 1,303 lb

On- and Off-site:  
 On-site  
 Air  
 Water  
 Land  
 Off-site

## Facilities Summary - Most Recent Reporting Year: 2021

For details about an individual facility, go to the [Facility List](#).

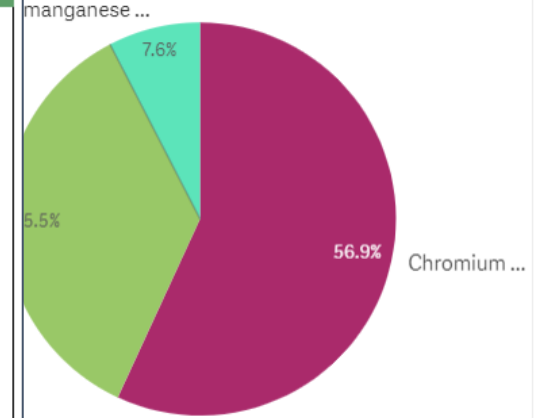
- [Print-Ready Report](#)
[Top Facilities](#)
[Facility List](#)
[EJ Report](#)
[Compliance and Enforcement](#)

To change the sorting order in the table, click on a column header.

For individual facility information, click on a facility name and then the green checkmark button.

🚩 indicates values within the metric which are above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile nationally compared to all other facilities. For example, releases greater than 27,386 pounds are flagged.

Facility	Dist... (Miles)	Releases (lb)	RSEI Score	P2 Activities	EJ	TRI
<b>Totals</b>	-	<b>7,390,942</b>	<b>2,765,738</b>	<b>2</b>		
ELECTRI-FLEX - 6017WLCTRF35CHA	8.55	358	🚩 1,508,426	0	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
MERCURY PRODUCTS CORP. - 60193MRC...	8.72	1,303	🚩 911,484	0	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
CHEM-PLATE INDUSTRIES - 60007PNDST...	5.34	🚩 56,837	🚩 138,711	0	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
ARLINGTON PLATING ACQUISITION CO - 6...	3.11	🚩 88,541	🚩 72,700	0	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
ELECTRI-FLEX CO - 60172LCTRF222WC	8.23	492	🚩 50,286	0	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
HAUSNER HARD-CHROME INC - 60007HS...	5.04	4,511	🚩 35,134	0	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>



See other tabs for details about pollution prevention activities and relative risk information

# Important Considerations



- **Annual data**—collected from TRI reporting facilities once each year.
- **Covers some—but not all**—toxic chemicals, and not all industry sectors.
- **Small facilities** (under 10 employees) don't report.
- **Does not cover all sources of pollution**, such as cars and trucks.
- **Does not describe how long or how often** chemicals were released.
- **For more information**, see [\*Factors to Consider When Using TRI Data\*](#).

# TRI is Only One Piece of the Puzzle

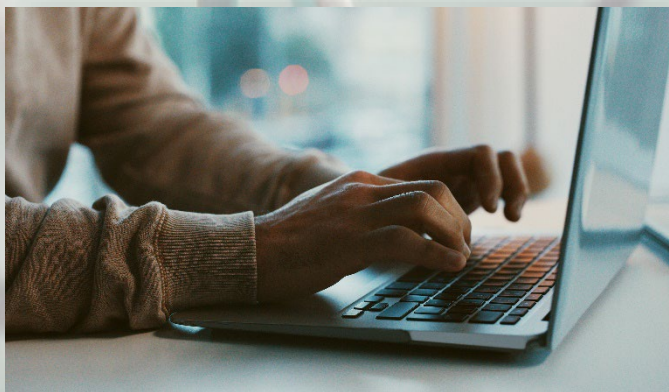
- Seeing the whole picture of potential health risks in your community requires additional information beyond what the TRI provides.
- For example, you may need data on other types of environmental releases, air monitoring data, or records of a facility's compliance with environmental regulations.
- Other considerations may include:
  - Car and truck emissions
  - Gas stations
  - Dry cleaners
  - Car painting shops
  - Forest fires
  - Underground storage tanks
  - Abandoned hazardous waste sites
  - Drinking water quality
  - Lead paint in homes

# What You Can Do

## DISCUSS

the TRI data you find with:

- Neighborhood associations and community groups
- Local environmental organizations
- Non-profit planning organizations
- Local colleges and researchers
- Government environmental, health, and/or planning agencies
- Local and state elected officials
- Industry trade associations and industrial facilities



## FIND OUT

if a facility of concern complies with EPA laws and regulations using EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) at <https://echo.epa.gov/>.

## USE

TRI P2 data to encourage local facilities to implement new P2 activities or expand their existing P2 activities.



## REPORT

a suspected violation at [epa.gov/tips](https://epa.gov/tips) or contact your state environmental agency (contacts listed at: [www.epa.gov/aboutepa/health-and-environmental-agencies-us-states-and-territories](https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/health-and-environmental-agencies-us-states-and-territories)).

# With TRI and other EPA information, you can begin to answer questions about your community



I thought a factory in my community released a lot of pollution. The TRI data showed me that this facility dramatically reduced the amount of toxic chemicals it released into the environment over the past 10 years.



Using TRI, I found out which chemicals are released in the greatest quantities. Next, I'm going to find out if the releases were to the air, water, or land, and about their potential human health effects.



The TRI showed me that the factory by my daughter's school releases chemicals that could potentially cause cancer. Now, I'm going to find out more.

# For More Information

- Contact the TRI Coordinator for your region: [www.epa.gov/tri/contacts](http://www.epa.gov/tri/contacts)
- Contact TRI staff at EPA Headquarters: [tri.help@epa.gov](mailto:tri.help@epa.gov)
- Visit the TRI for Communities webpage: [www.epa.gov/tri/communities](http://www.epa.gov/tri/communities)
- Use EPA's 'My Environment' tool: [enviro.epa.gov/myenvironment](http://enviro.epa.gov/myenvironment)