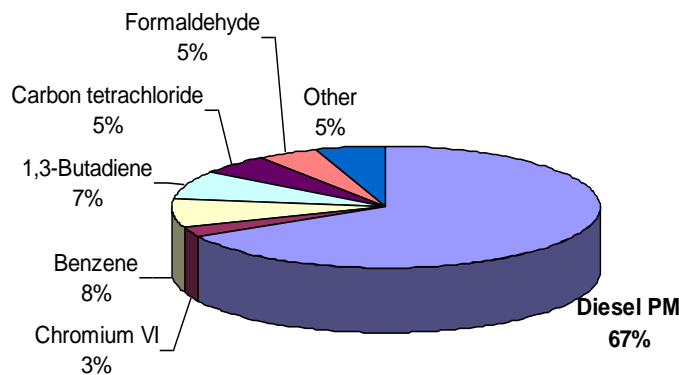


Diesel Health Concerns Factsheet

Diesel particulate matter (PM) emissions are responsible for serious short-term and long-term health impacts. When inhaled some of these particles are small enough to get past the body's defences and become embedded deep within the lungs. The smallest particles can potentially enter the bloodstream directly through the lungs. Emissions from diesel engines are linked to premature deaths, increased hospitalizations and lost work days.

Diesel exhaust is classified as a known or probable human carcinogen by various governmental organizations such as the World Health Organization and US Environmental Protection Agency. A study commissioned by Metro Vancouver shows that PM emissions from diesel engines are responsible for approximately 67% of the lifetime cancer risks from air pollutants in the region. Non-road diesel engines are responsible for approximately 41% of diesel PM emissions.

Apportionment of Lifetime Cancer Risk from Emissions of Air Toxics in Metro Vancouver (overall risk 526 per million)



Diesel PM is linked to many other serious heart and lung diseases including:

- asthma
- chronic obstructive lung disease
- chronic bronchitis
- pneumonia
- cancers
- heart attacks
- arrhythmia

Please contact us if you have any questions at nonroaddiesel@metrovancover.org or 604-451-6655.

Web Resources

1. [Air Toxics Emissions and Health Risk Assessment Summary Report](#)
2. [Diesel Particulate Matter Factsheet](#)

