

List of Common Fire Ground Carcinogens

Asbestos* - A heat-resistant fibrous silicate mineral that can be woven into fabrics and is used in fire-resistant and insulating materials such as brake linings.

Arsenic - Arsenic-related compounds and alloys have been used in the manufacture of a wide variety of products including pesticides, wood preservatives, and glass products.

Benzene* - Is found in diesel exhaust, furniture wax, and common building materials (e.g., paints, adhesives, etc.).

Benzopyrene* - Generated as a result of incomplete combustion of organic materials.

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons* (PAHs) - Is generated as a result of vehicle exhaust and incomplete combustion of wood or other mixed organic materials.

Cadmium - Commonly used as a corrosion-resistant plating on steel, to color glass, and to stabilize plastics.

Chlorophenols - Some chlorophenols are used as pesticides, in antiseptics, and can be produced during the process of bleaching wood pulp to make paper.

Chromium - Chromium compounds are used for chrome plating, in dyes and pigments, in leather tanning, as wood preserving corrosion inhibitors and in textiles.

Carbon Monoxide - Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas produced as a result of incomplete combustion.

Dioxins* - Commonly released when items containing PVC, such as vinyl flooring, vinyl wallpaper, shower curtains, window frames, electrical equipment and Venetian blinds, are burned.

Ethylene Oxide - Found in a variety of detergents, thickeners, solvents, and plastics.

Formaldehyde* - Commonly found in cleaning materials and engineered wood-base material such as medium density fiberboard (MDF).

Glutaraldehyde - Used in the tanning process of leather, as a component in cleaning agents, and in the production of adhesives and sealants.

Hydrogen Cyanide - Used in the manufacture of synthetic fibers.

Orthotoluidide - Used in the manufacture of more than 90 dyes and pigments and in synthetic rubbers.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls* (PCB) - Used in electrical equipment (e.g., capacitors), plasticizers, and lubricants.

Sulfur Dioxide - Is produce by burning materials containing sulfur, such as household and personal cleaning products.

Vinyl Chloride* - Is used to produce PVC and can be found in furniture, upholstery, wall coverings, and housewares.

*These agents have been classified as “Carcinogenic to Humans” by either the IARC or EPA.