

This is the weekly bulletin of the TURI Library at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Greenlist Bulletin provides previews of recent publications and websites relevant to reducing the use of toxic chemicals by industries, businesses, communities, individuals and government. You are welcome to send a message to mary@turi.org if you would like more information on any of the articles listed here, or if this email is not displaying properly.

Rapid Response: Every department needs mutual aid agreements and communications interoperability

Source: [Fire Rescue](#), September 14, 2018

Author: Marc Bashoor

As the east coast braced for Hurricane Florence, a tsunami of gas fires erupted in Massachusetts. In what is being described as a possible gas over-pressure problem, multiple fires and explosions occurred in Andover, North Andover, and Lawrence Massachusetts. In a tragically rare set of circumstances in Lawrence, an 18-year-old was killed when a chimney collapsed onto the car he was inside, in his driveway.

...

Thursday at 5:01 p.m., Andover Fire Rescue struck a 10-alarm response, its maximum fire response, directing 20 fire engines and 10 fire ladder trucks to the Town of Andover plus the town's entire fire department. A lot of those resources were already responding to concurrent 10-alarm situations in Lawrence and North Andover.

Chief Michael Mansfield requested through MEMA, two additional fire task forces to respond to Andover. This sent an additional 20 engines and ladder trucks total to Andover. Chief Mansfield also requested an ambulance task force, sending

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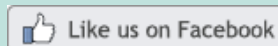
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Beyond The Safety Data Sheet: Finding Information on Chemical Hazards

**Thursday, Sept. 20th, 2018
11:00AM to 2:00PM**

Toxics Use Reduction Institute
126 John Street
Suite 14 (2nd floor)

10 ambulances to Andover.

[Read more...](#)

Also see from *Fire Rescue*, "[Union: Over 1K in FDNY suffer from Ground Zero illnesses 17 years later](#)".

See information on [The World Trade Center Health Registry](#).

Lowell, MA 01852

Solvents, cleaners, catalysts, and other chemicals can contribute to cancer, asthma, neurological disease, birth defects, and other health problems. But safer alternatives often exist. This free, 3 hour, informal, interactive workshop presented by the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) will give you a hands-on opportunity to use online databases and other tools that give you more current and complete information on chemicals, and help you identify safer substitutes. If you use chemicals, we encourage you to attend.

MassDEP has approved this event for 3 continuing education credits.

Find more information and register [here](#).

Worker exposure to hazardous chemicals is a 'global health crisis'

Source: [Chemical Watch](#), September 12, 2018

Author: Leigh Stringer

A UN expert has proposed 15 principles that aim to help governments and businesses better protect workers from exposure to hazardous chemicals -- an issue he calls a "global health crisis". ...

The report, which will be presented to the 39th session of the UN's Human Rights Council, sets out findings from Mr Tuncak's four years of monitoring the issue in industries and countries around the world.

The report argues that many companies and national governments are not meeting their duty to uphold the rights of workers under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. These stipulate the right to safe and healthy working conditions.

[Read more...](#)

See report from the United Nations, "[Report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes](#)".

Zürich Statement on Future Actions on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs)

Source: [Environmental Health Perspectives](#), August 31, 2018

Authors: Amelie Ritscher, Zhanyun Wang, Martin Scheringer, Justin M. Boucher, Lutz Ahrens, et al.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) are man-made chemicals that contain at

least one perfluoroalkyl moiety, $-C_nF_{2n}-$. To date, over 4,000 unique PFASs have been used in technical applications and consumer products, and some of them have been detected globally in human and wildlife biomonitoring studies. Because of their extraordinary persistence, human and environmental exposure to PFASs will be a long-term source of concern. Some PFASs such as perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) have been investigated extensively and thus regulated, but for many other PFASs, knowledge about their current uses and hazards is still very limited or missing entirely. To address this problem and prepare an action plan for the assessment and management of PFASs in the coming years, a group of more than 50 international scientists and regulators held a two-day workshop in November, 2017. The group identified both the respective needs of and common goals shared by the scientific and the policy communities, made recommendations for cooperative actions, and outlined how the science-policy interface regarding PFASs can be strengthened using new approaches for assessing and managing highly persistent chemicals such as PFASs.

[Read more...](#)

Making Affordable Multifamily Housing More Energy Efficient: A Guide to Healthier Upgrade Materials

[Source: Healthy Building Network, September 2018](#)

[Authors: Veena Singla, Cai Steger, Eileen Quigley](#)

Insulation and air sealing are two of the most common interventions performed in energy efficiency upgrades, and yet they can introduce many chemicals of concern into buildings. That's why Healthy Building Network (HBN) teamed up with Energy Efficiency for All (EEFA) and other partner organizations to consider healthier insulation and air sealing materials and how to help encourage their use in multifamily energy efficiency upgrades. This report includes details of HBN's research on the common chemical content of a range of insulation and sealant materials as well as simple, actionable recommendations to make the best material choices possible. Because hazardous content is not the only consideration when making material choices, also included is HBN's compilation of relative cost information, performance characteristics, and installation and code considerations. Finally, the report introduces a discussion of policies that may impact material decisions and how to encourage the use of healthier materials in multifamily energy efficiency upgrades.

[Read more...](#)

See report from the Healthy Building Network, "[Making Affordable Multifamily Housing More Energy Efficient: A Guide to Healthier Upgrade Materials](#)".

NJ Becomes First State To Regulate Carcinogenic Chemical As EPA Lags

[Source: NJSpotlight, September 5, 2018](#)

[Author: Jon Hurdle](#)

New Jersey on Tuesday became the first state to regulate the PFAS class of chemicals that has been linked to cancer and other illnesses, but which is not regulated by the federal government. This despite a growing national focus on risks to public health from the chemicals in drinking water.

The state Department of Environmental Protection formally adopted a plan to set a "maximum contaminant limit" (MCL) for perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), which was used in consumer products such as nonstick cookware and flame-retardant fabrics. Although it was phased out by U.S. manufacturers, it persists in some water systems.

The DEP's action, published Tuesday in the New Jersey Register, concludes a four-year period of research into PFNA by state scientists. It will require water system

operators to comply with the new limit of 0.013 micrograms per liter, stricter than the state's previous standard, which was only advisory.

[Read more...](#)

Also see from the *Environmental Working Group*, "[Removing Toxic Fluorinated Chemicals From Your Home's Tap Water](#)".

Also see from *Ohio Valley Resource*, "[Toxic 'Teflon' Chemicals on EPA Regulatory Agenda](#)".

Trump's EPA is flouting the law when approving new chemicals. Here are 3 examples.

[Source: Environmental Defense Fund, September 5, 2018](#)

Author: Richard Denison

This summer, New York-based International Flavors & Fragrances got the green light from the Environmental Protection Agency to begin importing a potentially toxic chemical known as Jeffamine diacrylamide to the United States.

The company says it will import 1,000 kilograms of the chemical annually for use in a wide array of industrial, commercial and household products such as floor cleaners, cat litter and fabric refresher sprays to reduce "malodors."

Political appointees at the EPA quietly overruled the recommendations of its own professional staff, ramming through an approval of the chemical in direct contempt of the 2016 amendments to the Toxic Substances Control Act.

[Read more...](#)

The [EPA requests](#) public nominations of scientific experts to be considered for ad hoc participation and possible membership on the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC).

The future for hazardous mixtures in the EU

[Source: European Chemicals Agency, September 13, 2018](#)

Author: Jacob Aahauge

An upcoming poison centres notification portal will offer an easy-to-use and secure way for industry to prepare and submit information, in a recently released harmonised format, to appointed bodies in different Member States. Here's what you need to know to start preparing.

Most citizens don't think much about what the household bottles they keep under their kitchen sinks contain. They usually have shiny labels with phrases like Deep clean!, Ultra power! or Advanced cleaning!

But if you are an importer or downstream user of mixtures, you know that behind these colourful descriptions, there are some rather potent chemicals hiding. They are efficient at cleaning or for other purposes, but they may also be misused and cause a poisoning incident.

[Read more...](#)

Also see from ECHA's September 2018 Newsletter:

- [Making sports pitches and playgrounds safer.](#)
- [Are the new REACH information requirements for nanos relevant for you?](#)
- [Stepping up to a challenge: increasing chemicals safety in developing countries.](#)

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