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## **NEW REPORT: Dangerous Jobs Killed 69 Workers in Massachusetts last year**

[Source: Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health](#)

...the Massachusetts AFL-CIO and the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH) released a new report documenting the loss of life taking place at worksites across Massachusetts. Titled Dying for Work in Massachusetts: Loss of Life and Limb in Massachusetts Workplaces, the 28-page report details how workers like Williams lost their lives on the job and what must be done to keep workers safe.

[Read more...](#)

[Download the Report.](#)

See also International Labour Organization's [World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2019](#)

See also [ILO's interviews](#) with experts, including David Michaels, longtime OSHA director, commenting on Operational Excellence and Safety Management

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## **Governments agree landmark decisions to protect people and planet from hazardous chemicals and waste, including plastic waste**

[Source: UN Environment](#)

Geneva, 11 May 2019 – Decisions on plastic waste have been reached today in Geneva, as approximately 180 governments adopted a raft of decisions aimed at protecting human health and the environment from the harmful effects of hazardous chemicals and waste.

...Governments this week amended the Basel Convention to include plastic waste in a legally-binding framework which will make global trade in plastic waste more transparent and better regulated, whilst also ensuring that its management is safer for human health and the environment. At the same time, a new Partnership on Plastic Waste was established to mobilise business, government, academic and civil society resources, interests and expertise to assist in implementing the new measures, to provide a set of practical supports – including tools, best practices, technical and financial assistance - for this ground-breaking agreement.

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## EPA Publishes Proposed PBT Chemicals Rule under TSCA

[Source: The National Law Review](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released on June 21, 2019, a proposed rule intended to reduce exposures to certain chemicals that are persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT). EPA identified five chemicals pursuant to Section 6(h) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA): decabromodiphenyl ether (DecaBDE); phenol, isopropylated phosphate (3:1) (PIP (3:1)), also known as tris(4-isopropylphenyl) phosphate; 2,4,6-tris(tert-butyl)phenol (2,4,6-TTBP); hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD); and pentachlorothiophenol (PCTP). The proposed rule would restrict or prohibit manufacture (including import), processing, and distribution in commerce for many uses of all of the chemicals except HCBD, for which EPA is proposing no regulatory action. For the other four chemicals, the proposed rule includes recordkeeping requirements, as well as additional downstream notification requirements for PIP (3:1). Publication of the proposed rule in the *Federal Register* will begin a 60-day comment period.

[Read more...](#)

See also [Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic \(PBT\) Chemicals under TSCA Section 6\(h\)](#)

See also [EDF files comments on two EPA proposals affecting EPA's and the public's access to chemical information under TSCA](#)

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## 2019 Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances: Second National Conference

The Organizing Committee of the 2019 PFAS Conference is happy to announce that our [second National conference](#) was a great success, thanks to the work of everyone involved.

View the Presentations: [Day 1](#) and [Day 2](#).

Also see: [Reporter's notebook: PFAS conference unveils global perspective](#)

Also see: Green Science Policy Institute's [PFAS information page](#)

Also see: ["Forever chemical" added to the European list of substances of very high concern](#)

Also see: [NHDES Submits Final Rulemaking Proposal for PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS and PFNA](#)

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## New electrochemical method detects PFOS and PFOA

[Source: Chemical & Engineering News](#)

Author: Emma Hiolski

Bubbles and tiny electrodes may hold the key to faster, more cost-effective detection of perfluorinated surfactants that can contaminate drinking water. Researchers have developed an electrochemistry-based method to detect surfactants, specifically perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), with high sensitivity and specificity.

[Read more...](#)

See the [American Chemical Society journal article](#)

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## **Draft Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Risk Evaluations and TSCA Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC) Meetings; Cyclic Aliphatic Bromide Cluster (HBCD) and 1,4-Dioxane; Notice of Availability and Public Meetings**

[Source: Federal Register](#)

EPA announces the availability of documents and dates for the peer review of the draft risk evaluations for Cyclic Aliphatic Bromide Cluster (HBCD) and 1,4-Dioxane, and associated documents. The purpose of the risk evaluations under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) is to determine whether a chemical substance presents an unreasonable risk to health or the environment under the conditions of use, including an unreasonable risk to a relevant potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulation.

View the [draft risk evaluation for HBCD and a factsheet](#) explaining the draft risk evaluation.

View the [draft risk evaluation for 1,4-dioxane and a factsheet](#) explaining the draft risk evaluation.

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## **Playground lead levels in rubber, soil, sand, and mulch surfaces in Boston**

[Source: PLOS](#)

Authors: Khaled S. Almansour, Nicholas J. Arisco, May K. Woo, Anna S. Young, Gary Adamkiewicz, Jaime E. Hart

Rubber surfacing is often used in playgrounds due to its potential injury prevention benefits and as a way to recycle waste tires. Available research on chemicals in recycled rubber has focused on synthetic turf applications, but is limited for playground rubber surfacing. Potential lead contamination from vulcanizing agents used in rubber surfacing are a possible concern; however this has not been researched. We examined levels of lead in poured-in-place rubber and compared them to levels in soil, sand, and wood mulch materials from 28 randomly selected playgrounds in Boston, MA, USA using X-ray fluorescence.

[Read more...](#)

TURI note: See the TURI report, [Playground Surfacing](#)

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## **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has published final profiles for Tetrachloroethylene (Perc) and Trichloroethylene**

The ATSDR toxicological profile succinctly characterizes the toxicologic and adverse health effects information for the hazardous substance described here. Each peer-reviewed profile identifies and reviews the key literature that describes a hazardous substance's toxicologic properties. Other pertinent literature is also presented.

View the [Toxicological Profile for Tetrachloroethylene \(Perc\)](#)

View the [Toxicological Profile for Trichloroethylene \(TCE\)](#)

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