

TRAFFIC CONGESTION

How safe is our daily commute? Apart from the much apparent threat of road accidents, have we pondered upon the exhaust fumes of the vehicles we are subjected to inhale? While the nation lacks an enforceable emission regulation along with the congested traffic, exaggerates the risk posed to the health and wellbeing of the dwellers of the city of Male'.

With every passing day, with every exhaust fume dose we intake, we are killing ourselves softly with our own hands.

COMMON EXHAUST POLLUTANTS

- ⇒ Particulate Matter
- ⇒ Hydrocarbons
- ⇒ Carbon Monoxide
- ⇒ NO_x
- ⇒ Carbon Dioxide

ASSOCIATED HEALTH ISSUES

- ⇒ Asthma
- ⇒ Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (a group of diseases that cause airflow blockage and breathing problems)
- ⇒ Cardiovascular Disease
- ⇒ Cancer
- ⇒ Diabetes
- ⇒ Increases mortality among susceptible groups

Diesel exhausts can contain mixture of gases and fine particulates that contains more than 40 toxic air contaminants which include known carcinogens such as benzene, arsenic and formaldehyde.

EXHAUST POLLUTANT BENZENE HAS BEEN LINKED TO LOWERED IMMUNITY AND LEUKAEMIA. US-EPA ESTIMATES THAT VEHICLE EMISSIONS ACCOUNT FOR AS MANY AS HALF OF ALL CANCERS ATTRIBUTED TO OUTDOOR AIR POLLUTION.

FINE PARTICULATE MATTER CAN ALTER THE HEARTS RHYTHM AND CAUSE INFLAMMATION
CARBON MONOXIDE: CAN CAUSE EYE IRRITATION, DOZINESS, LETHARGY AND MIGRAINES. THE GAS IS PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS AS IT IS COLOURLESS AND OVER EXPOSURE MAY RESULT FATAL.

OXIDES OF NITROGEN OR NO_x: CAUSES IRRITATION TO THE LINING OF THE LUNGS AND SEVERE NAUSEA.