



Toxicology News Monthly Bulletin (BCTOX) March -2017

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2. BC Toxicology Picture of the Month



The Dollar Tree store in downtown Victoria has been closed by WorkSafeBC prevention field officers because of concern that crumbling floor tiles containing asbestos could cause harm (The building assessed to worth \$1.7 million). Adopted from [Times Colonist](#) 2017-03-01.



Too many contractors aren't removing asbestos properly according to B.C. Building Trades Council. The federal government has ordered a ban on asbestos by 2018. Adopted from [CBCNews](#) (2016)

3. About Us

Aims and Scope:

BC Toxicology News Monthly Bulletin (BCTOX) aims to popularise the knowledge of toxicology and expand utility of the awareness of Toxicology News in British Columbia, Canada. It tries to engage health professionals with online published toxicology news and publicly available information. BCTOX mainly focuses on adapting or summarizing toxicology relevant news in BC. The Bulletin accepts and welcomes contribution of professionals and public as long as they met BCTOX standards.

This bulletin is not official and nor peer reviewed. It does not cover all the news, and is not responsible for the accuracy of the news from media. It is, however, BC related, informative, handpicked and fun reading it.

How to access the original news items? If you click on the link related to each one of the provided news, it would take you to the original site of the news.

Publication Frequency: BCTOX is published monthly in English by Reza Afshari. Provided information in GRAY is not related to the current issue, but could be of interest.

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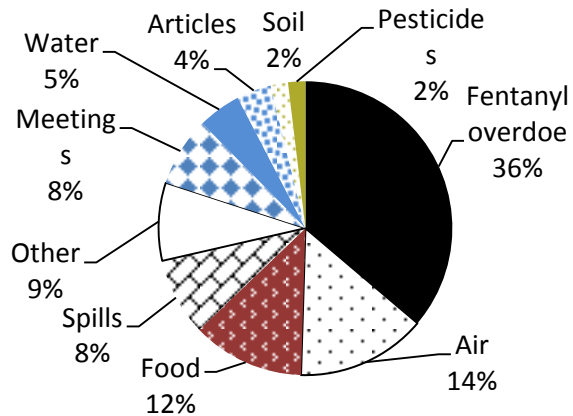
Contact Us:

BC Toxicology News Monthly Bulletin could be reached at 109 – 811, West 7th Avenue, Vancouver, V5Z 1C2.

Tel: 604 999 6185 E-mail: Reza.Afshari@bccdc.ca
BCTOX@yahoo.com

To contribute to the next issues, provide your opinion or report a mistake, please email to Reza.Afshari@bccdc.ca Feedbacks would be appreciated. If this bulletin is not of interest to you, let us know please not to fill up your mailbox in future.

4. Distribution of toxicological news in this issue



Toxicology news in this month was still focused on Fentanyl overdose (50%) followed by food recall (9%) and soil high exposure (7%).

Housekeeping notice:

For logistical reasons, current issue would be limited to 1 to 27th of March, and also April and May issues would be merged and released by the end of May.

5. Editor's Summary

Similar to previous months, BC toxicology news in March was dominated by fentanyl overdoses and deaths. Air pollution, food-related high exposure to chemicals, spills, and water and soil contamination also received attention, respectively.

A few small and medium-size diesel spills occurred, including one near Port Harvey (178 liters) and a 50-foot boat sunk in the Fraser River near Mission and caused a fuel spill. Also, cleanup activities continued off the north coast of Vancouver Island for a previous spill (600 liters).

One of the First Nation's chiefs objected to the fact that some parts of the fuel spill can't be cleaned. In addition, dumping toxins by a drug lab prompted a "not to use water alert" by interior health near Rock Creek, in which two dozen residents were affected. BC's Pipeline Spill Map is still offline.

In this month, WorkSafe BC closed a store in downtown Victoria because of concern that crumbling floor tiles containing asbestos could cause harm, and also an asbestos removers' lawsuit against WorkSafe BC was tossed out. Since 2007, WorkSafe BC issued fines to a total of more than \$500,000. It was reported that asbestos studies can cost 3,000 to \$4,000 and noted that it can add up to \$15,000 onto a demolition.

BC adds three cancers to the list of firefighters' illnesses eligible for coverage. The list is 10 now and includes brain, bladder and testicular cancer, as well as leukemia.

The possibility of pesticide exposure via Marijuana use was discussed, and also an article downplayed the importance of pesticide exposure in BC due to enforcing regulations in Canada.

It was reported in March that Aboriginal teens smoke at a rate 2-3 times higher than other teens in BC, and a prevention plan via focusing on creativity of youth is going on by FNHA. Port Coquitlam is considering a potential outdoor smoking ban consistent with Canadian Cancer Society recommendations. It was revealed that the Federal Government may suggest on moving the legal smoking age to 21.

In March, Ministry of Environment sets the record straight on Comox Valley air quality, disputing the Guardian newspaper report on BC having the second-worst air quality in the U.S. and Canada.

In general, air quality in Vancouver was good. IEA reported that [global] Carbon dioxide emissions were flat for third straight year even as the global economy grew in 2016. CO₂ emissions declined in China (emissions fell by 3% while the economy expanded by 6.7%) and the United States (emissions fell by 1% while the economy expanded by 1.6%), and were stable in Europe. BC emissions are lower than AB, ON, QC and SK according to rather older data on emissions in Canada (2014).

On one occasion in March, deadly levels of carbon monoxide in a Burnaby home sent nine (including two paramedics) to hospital.

It was reported that accidental exposure of children to laundry pods has more than doubled in the past few years in BC.

U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt disputed that carbon dioxide is 'primary contributor' to climate change and Global warming, and by

the end of March, president Trump signed executive orders to dismantle Obama-era environmental regulations, rekindling the highly charged partisan debate about how human activity affects the earth's climate.

Complaints were reported from UBC staff in regards to the leaking of an anti-corrosive substance into the hot-water drinking system in one building in UBC.

[Residents in a small town *northwest of Edmonton, Alberta* found their drinking water turned bright pink due to higher exposure to potassium permanganate, which is used for weekly washing of filters at the water treatment plant.]

A plan was suggested to take the plastic stickers off apples, oranges and bananas to make it easier for composting. It was also implied that provincial regulations effectively ban traditional First Nations foods from being served in many early childhood education programs, according to a report prepared for the B.C. Aboriginal Child Care Society.

In this month, PSP values decreased but still some samples were higher than expected (updated by 27th of March). All domoic acid values were below the detectable limits. This is the first time in a few months that domoic acid is reported to be zero.

Food recalls in BC were mainly related to allergens for undeclared ingredients.

[For a second consecutive month, in *February* the number of opioid overdose deaths decreased in the province to 102 cases with a 13% decrease as compared to January. It is still however 20% higher than February last year. The spike in overdose deaths seen at the end of 2016 was [allegedly] attributed to carfentanyl.]

In March 2017, Fentanyl-making chemicals were added to the list of controlled substances by the UN, prison sentences for street-level trafficking of the dangerous opioid fentanyl increased in BC, and more staff and instruments were requested by toxicology labs as a 30% increase in testing happened last year.

Long-standing "drug policies that criminalize drug users" were focused on by BC health authorities. The importance of the first few days after prison release for drug offenders was stressed. Yo-yo-ing i.e. concurrent use of naloxone and drugs to prevent overdose was reported by the media.

Pharmacists petition to take 'gateway drug' codeine off the shelf in midst of the fentanyl crisis. The first overdose prevention site in Nanaimo was opened.

Interior elders and chiefs declare state of emergency over fentanyl.

6. Toxic Spills

Incident/ report date	Description	Source
2017-03-24	Traffic on a major Lower Mainland commuter route is delayed due to a gravel spill in highway 99 east and west south of Ladner Trunk Road following a crash between a dump truck and a minivan	Castanet
2017-03-24	B.C. spill response in Budget 2017 is not clear.	iNews880
2017-03-22	Sunken 40- to 50-foot boat (the Queen of East Vancouver) causes fuel spill in Fraser River near Mission.	Global News
2017-03-10	Small amount (178 litres) of diesel spilled near Port Harvey, B.C. Coast Guard says spill originated from land. Thomas Smith, a councillor for the nearby Tlowitsis First Nation, said the spill was first noticed by a resident on Friday morning	CBC News
2017-03-06	B.C. fish farm company says it 'highly regrets' (600 liters) diesel spill at the farm off the north coast of Vancouver Island and quick actions by staff helped reduce the impact on the environment. Sheen from the spill is "unrecoverable," according to the Canadian Coast Guard. (Twyla Roscovich)	CBC News
2017-03-05	PORT HARDY, B.C.— The leader of a First Nation off the north coast of Vancouver Island says he's worried about the impact a fuel spill at a nearby fish farm will have on his community's food source.	The Star.com
2017-03-08	Since Jan. 1, 2017 there have been more than 50 accidental releases from pipelines and oil and gas facilities in Alberta.	Alberta Energy Regulator
2017-03-08	Clandestine drug lab dumps toxins, prompts water alert near Rock Creek. About two dozen residents near Rock Creek have been told not to use their water following an Interior Health (IH) 'Do Not Use' order. The alert comes after RCMP uncovered a clandestine drug lab in the area where solvents and hazardous materials were dumped onto the soil. The three-kilometre should not use tap water.	Global News
2017-03-08	BC's Pipeline Spill Map Has Been Offline for Over Eight Months	The Tyee

7. Pesticide (Insecticides, glyphosate)

Incident/ report date	Description	Source
2017-03-10	--- In a country such as Canada where we enjoy a nutrient-rich diet and stringent pesticide regulations, the health benefits of organic foods are marginal.	Van Sun
2017-03-10	--- But there are two important socio-economic benefits that consumers can feel good about if they continue to buy only organic produce: it avoids exposing farm workers to pesticides, and the premium that organics fetch is helping to pull the small family farm back from the brink of extinction.	Business Vancouver
2017-03-13	Certain licensed producer's purported use of unapproved pesticides, according to Medical Marijuana Stock News.	Investor Ideas

8. Mold & Asbestos

Incident/ report date	Description	Source
2017-03-20	Record Demand for Coquitlam Home Inspections, including mold inspection, in the Greater Vancouver BC Area	Digital Journal
2017-03-13	Asbestos leading cause of worker deaths in province: WorkSafe BC. Residential buildings built before 1990 may contain asbestos. Scraping "popcorn" ceilings is considered high risk. "Flooring, that's the most common place you'll find it," he said. Asbestos studies can cost from \$3,000 to \$4,000 and noted it can add up to \$15,000 onto a demolition.	Kamloops This Week
2017-03-09	Residents finally returned to their homes in a Victoria, B.C. apartment tower on Thursday after it was evacuated at the end of January over fears of asbestos contamination. After months (6 weeks?) of uncertainty, dust and air tests have cleared the way for tenants to move back in.	CBC News
2017-03-01	--- Tenants did not pay rent during their five-week absence and the property owners paid for their stays at the Doubletree Hotel, as well as \$200 a week for food. - See more at: Asbestos removers' 'nonsense' lawsuit against WorkSafe B.C. tossed out.	Times Colonist
2017-03-01	Between 2007 and 2012, WorkSafe B.C. issued 237 asbestos violation notices to the two men and companies they controlled, and imposed fines in excess of \$200,000. Since then, more violation notices and additional fines have been issued, bringing the total fines to more than \$500,000.	Van Sun
2017-03-01	Trish Knight Chernecki, WorkSafe spokeswoman. The Dollar Tree store in downtown Victoria has been closed by WorkSafeBC prevention field officers because of concern that crumbling floor tiles containing asbestos	Times Colonist

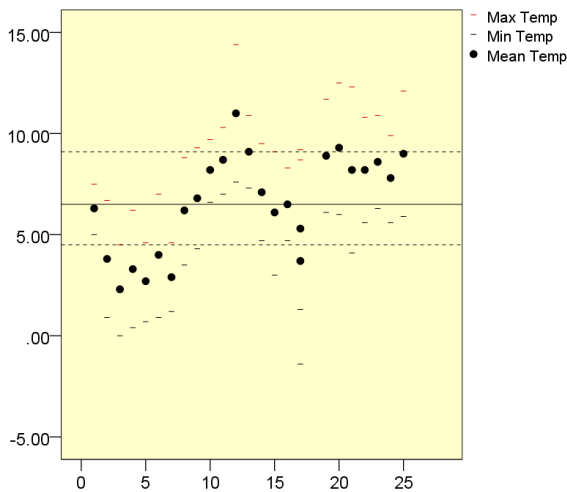
9. Allergy, Smoking

Incident/ report date	Description	Source
2017-03-25	FNHA Dr. Evan Adams is turning to today's youth on how they'd like to approach the issue and high risks of smoking and chewing tobacco. This gives the current generation the chance to show their creative side.	My Prince George Now
2017-03-22	Trudeau's government "Suggests" moving the legal smoking age to 21	News1130
2017-03-22	Up to 54% of Aboriginal teens in B.C. smoke tobacco according to the chief Medical Officer Dr. Evan Adams	Yahoo News
2017-03-21	Aboriginal teens smoke at a rate 2-3 times higher than other teens in BC	iNFOnews.ca
2017-03-21	Port Coquitlam "to consider" Canadian Cancer Society outdoor smoking ban	TriCity News

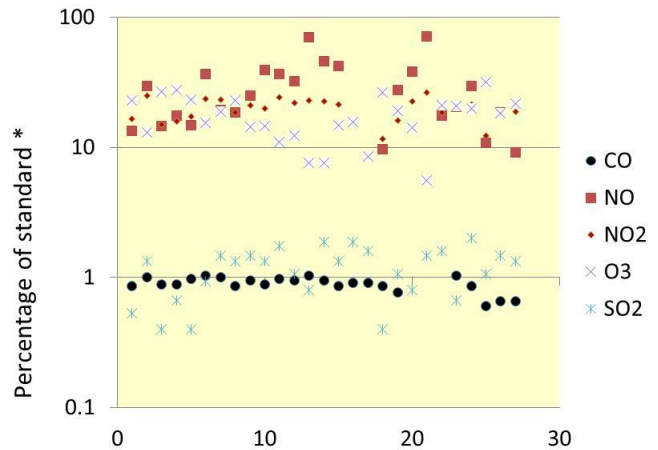
10. Air high exposure

Incident/ report date	Description	Area Location	Source
2017-03-27	BC Construction Safety Alliance's	BCCSA's mobile silica exposure mitigation application nears finish line. The application will be released at the end of the month for B.C. safety regulators.	Daily CommercialNews
2017-03-02	Comox Valley MLA Don McRae	Ministry of Environment sets record straight on Comox Valley air quality, disputing the Guardian newspaper report on B.C. has the second-worst air quality in the U.S. and Canada.	Comex Valley Echo

11. Air temperature and pollution



[Air temprature \(C\), Vancouver, 2017-03 \(up to 27th\)](#)
Average temperature increased by more than 3 °C



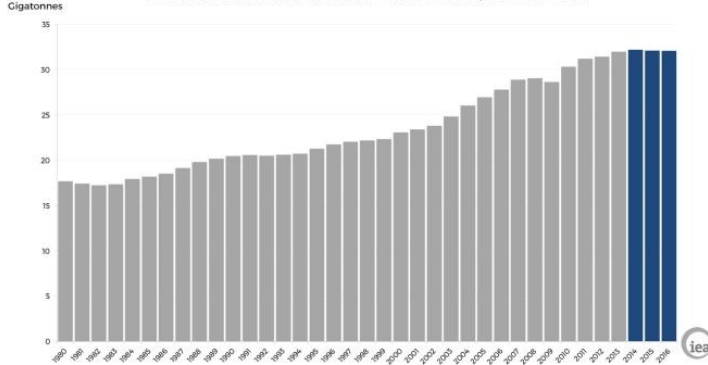
Air pollution (percentage of acceptable levels) (EPA) Vancouver-Robson square - 2017-03 (up to 27th) *[Methodology could be questioned]-
[Ministry of Environment](#)

12. International, Canada and BC comparison

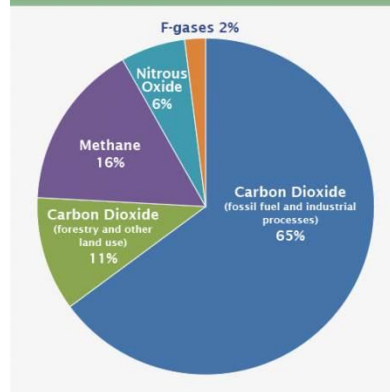
Green House Gas Production (17 March 2017)

Global report for 2016

Global Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 1980-2016

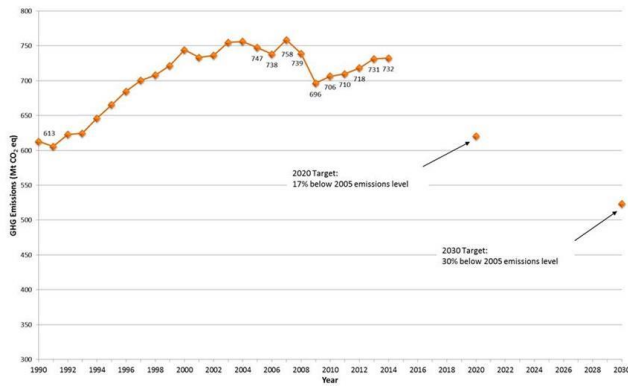


Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Gas

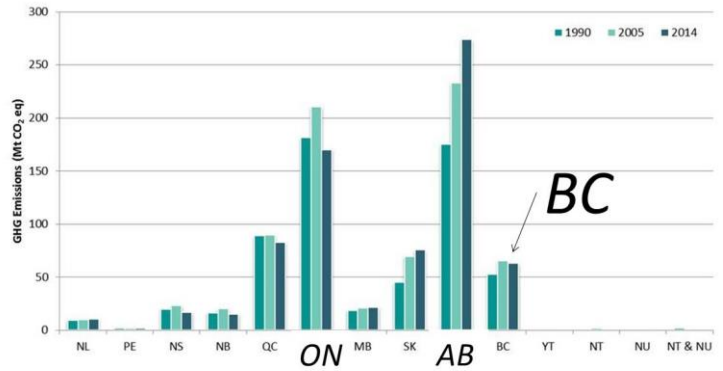


[IEA](#) finds CO₂ emissions flat for third straight year even as global economy grew in 2016. [EPA](#) Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data Global emissions from the energy sector stood at 32.1 gigatonnes last year, the same as the previous two years, while the global economy grew 3.1%, according to estimates from the IEA. Carbon dioxide emissions declined in China (missions fell by 3% while the economy expanded by 6.7%) and the United States (missions fell by 1% while the economy expanded by 1.6%), the world's two-largest energy users and emitters consecutively, and were stable in Europe.

Canadian report (up to 2014)

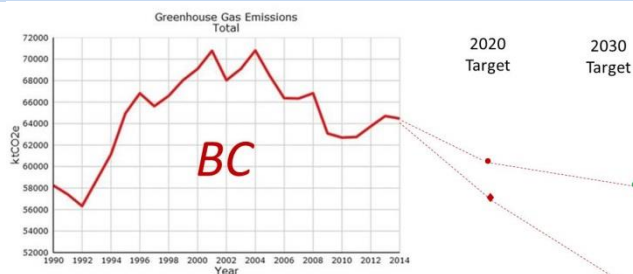


Canadian GHG Emissions Trend (1990-2014), 2020 Target, 2030 Target [Environment and Climate Canada](#)



Emissions by Province in 1990, 2005 and 2014. [Environment and Climate Canada](#)

BC report (up to 2014)

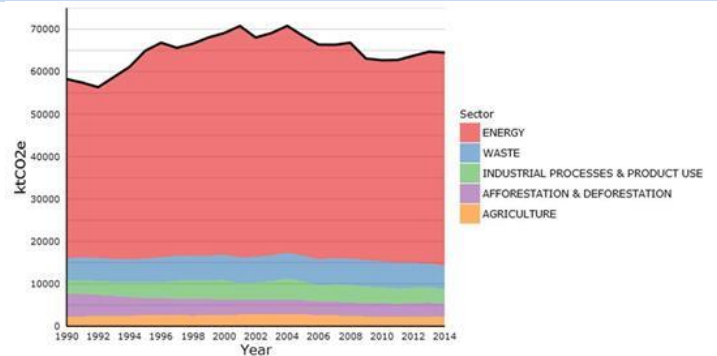


Canadian Targets based on Canada 2005 emission levels

- 2020: 17% below ≈ 620
- 2030: 30% below ≈ 520

Canadian Targets based on BC 2005 emission levels [BCTOX estimation]

- ◆ 2020: 17% below ≈ 560
- ◆ 2030: 30% below ≈ 480



Greenhouse gas emissions include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃) released by human activity. These emissions are reported collectively as kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (ktCO₂e) with the y-axis beginning at 52,000 ktCO₂e. [Environment Reporting BC](#) (extension of the graph is by BCTOX)

13. [Drinking] water high exposure

Incident/ report date	Description	Source
2017-03-09	The chemical, identified by UBC as Corrshield NT4206, is an anti-corrosive substance used in the hot-water heating system. Somehow, it leaked into the hot-water drinking system in UBC.	Van Sun
2017-03-08	On March 7, a UBC email was sent to occupants of the Friedman Addition-J. B. McDonald buildings. It set out the possible health issues, 44 days after the problem was discovered, Teck Resources says it has finished construction on a \$46 million groundwater treatment plant designed to clean up toxic groundwater that has collected beneath the city of Trail and the Teck smelter over the last century.	CBC News
2017-03-08	Algae growing in the salt crust at the bottom of the lake also played a major role in turning the water to pink. Westgate Park Lake in Victoria Australia	Natural blue water turned bright pink. The natural phenomenon happens when there's a perfect combination of high salt level, high temperatures, sunlight and lack of rainfall. NEWS Fix UPI
2017-03-07	The town was doing its weekly wash of filters at the water treatment plant using potassium permanganate, which turns water pink when used in large quantities. Residents in a small town northwest of Edmonton, Alberta	Bright pink water coming out of their taps was a bit of a shock. --- Onoway Mayor Dale Krasnow on the website: the public is safe and was not at any risk. CTV News
2017-03-03	Methamphetamine lab near Rock Creek, BC Interior Health 25 properties ordered to stop using water after suspected methamphetamine lab was found by police	A contractor specializing in hazardous waste material was helping in the cleanup. CTV News

14. Food high exposure

Incident/ report date	Description	Source
2017-03-22	One case of Botulism in Romania	DG24 ProMed
2017-03-27	Labelling The fishing industry supports better seafood labelling because we have made significant investments in sustainable fishing and want retailers and consumers to know what they are buying	Canadians eating in the dark
2017-03-27	--- Maple Ridge Coun. Craig Speirs wants the plastic stickers off apples, oranges and bananas to make it easier for composting.	Mapleridge news
2017-03-22	--- Provincial regulations effectively ban traditional First Nations foods from being served in many early childhood education programs, according to a report prepared for the B.C. Aboriginal Child Care Society.	Van Sun
2017-03-11	--- Two cases fall critically ill after drinking toxic tea from Chinatown herbalist in San Francisco. Monkshood, helmet flower and wolfsbane (Aconite), is used in Asian herbal medicines. But it must be processed properly to be safe.	FOXNews US ProMed
2017-03-09	--- The late winter is good news for foragers (Okanagan).	iNFO News

15. Food recall, CFIA

Incident date	Food (Company / Firm)	Reason to recall	Hazard classification	Distribution/Link
2017-03-28	Booby Boons brand Lactation Cookies	Allergen - undeclared peanut	1	National
2017-03-28	Booby Boons brand Lactation Cookies	Allergen - peanut	1	National
2017-03-22	Formel brand Great Shake Products	Allergen - undeclared peanut	1	National
2017-03-15	Various King's Family brand dumplings	Allergen - Egg	1	BC
2017-03-07	Booby Boons brand Lactation Cookies – Chocolate Chip	Undeclared milk (allergen)	2	National
2017-03-07	UncleTom's FarmInc-TheCiderKegbrand AppleBBQGrilling Sauce	Undeclared anchovy	2	BC & ON
2017-03-03	Eastern brand Payasam Mix	Allergen - Gluten Wheat	1	BC Others
2017-03-01	Robert Rothschild brand gift sets	Undeclared soy & wheat (allergen)	2	BC, & some other
2017-03-01	Ziyad brand Soup Starter Soup Base – Jameed	Undeclared milk (allergen)	1	BC, National?



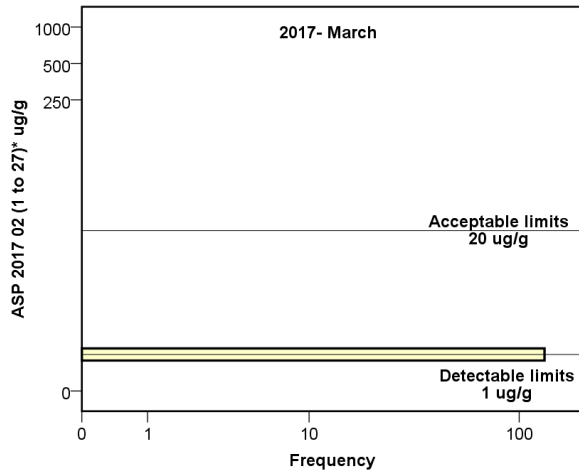
CFIA Canadian Food Inspection Agency

16. Soil high exposure

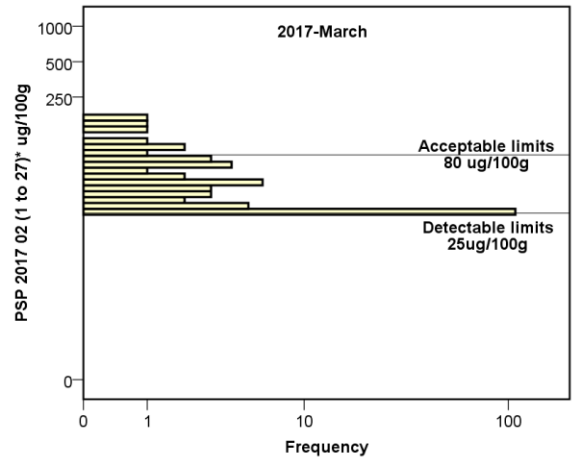
Incident/ report date	Contaminant	Area	Report	Source
2017-03-26	BC Ministry of the Environment	BC	Cancelling permit unlawful, Shawnigan Lake quarry owner says, and costs substantial harm to the company.	TimesColonist
2017-03-03	BC Ministry of the Environment	BC	Recently canceled the environmental permit for Cobble Hill Holdings for the operation of its contaminated soil landfill. The landfill, located near Shawnigan Lake in British Columbia.	HaazMat

17. Marine “positive” biotoxins - CFIA

Harvest /published date
ASP (ug/g)
All 132 samples in March were below 1.0 µg/g (updated 27 March 2017)
DSP (ug/g)
O+DTX ND, P 0.01
PSP (ug/g/100g)
Out of 144 sample in March (updated 27 March 2017), 105 samples were below 25 (ug/g/100g)



ASP (n=132)



DSP

PSP (n=144)

ASP values were negative for all samples taken in March. This happened after a long time (updated by 27th of March).

PSP values decreased in March but still some samples are higher than expected (updated by 27th of March).

18. Acute toxicity & occupational

Incident date	Who	News	Distribution/Link
2017-03-16	Late report	An acrid smell in parts of Taza on [Tue 8 Mar 2016], Islamic State militants fired more than 40 rockets carrying chemical warheads at this northern Iraqi town of mud-wall compounds and dusty date palms, according to district head Hussein Adil, killing a young child and wounding over 800 civilians. After the attack, which may have been carried out with a mixture of chlorine and mustard gas, nearly half of the town's 30 000 residents, mostly ethnic Turkmen Shiites, fled in terror.	ProMed
2017-03-08		A gas fireplace that allegedly was improperly installed is at the centre of a tragic legal case (Dr. John Pinel, a UBC retired psychology professor). Their problems began after renovation of their house.	Van Sun
2017-03-08		Deadly levels of <u>carbon monoxide</u> in Burnaby home send nine including two paramedics, to hospital. It measured at 260 parts per million, compared to a normal level somewhere between zero and 9 ppm [?], according to Vogel	Burnaby Now
2017-03-07	Dr Roy Pursell	The number of calls about kids being accidentally exposed to laundry pods has more than doubled in the past few years. It received 152 calls last year, compared to just 59 in 2012.	NEWS 1130
2017-03-06	BC Safety Authority	called on homeowners, businesses, building and strata managers in Smithers, Kitimat, Terrace and Prince Rupert who may have had gas work performed by 'Best Heating', to contact them. BCSA has identified numerous instances of unauhtorized work resulting in potentially unsafe conditions related to gas appliances such as furnaces and hot water tanks.	Northern View

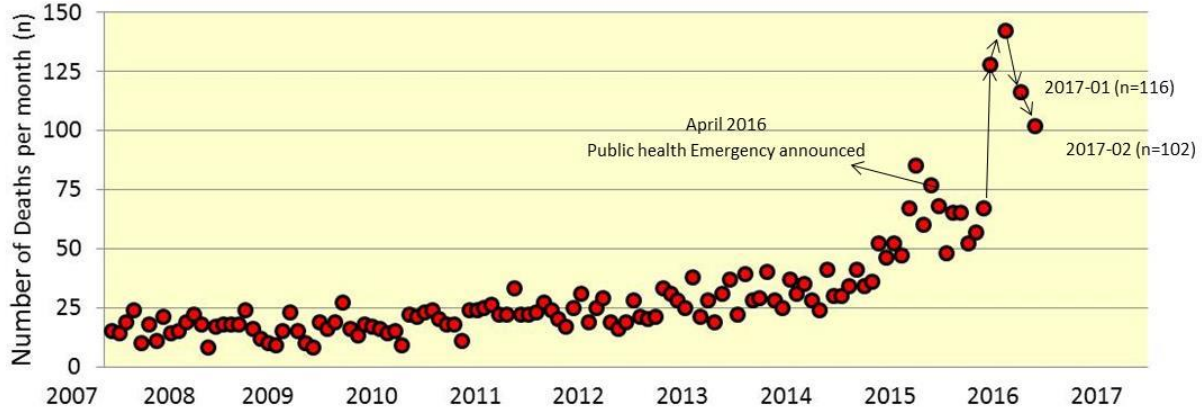
19. Chronic toxicity & occupational

Incident date	Who	Description	Source
2017-03-06	Minnesota and Wisconsin Dep. of Health	An investigation at a shipyard in Superior, Wisconsin: The investigation looked into occupational exposures to lead. Of the 233 shipyard workers tested for lead exposure, 171 had elevated levels of lead in their blood.	ProMed
2017-03-06	B.C. Professional Firefighters Association president Gord Ditchburn.	Firefighters are exposed to toxic environments that greatly contribute to increased cancer risks, more than double that of the general population. B.C. adds three cancers to list of firefighters' illnesses eligible for coverage. The list is 10 now & includes brain, bladder and testicular cancer, as well as leukemia.	Metro

20. Forests

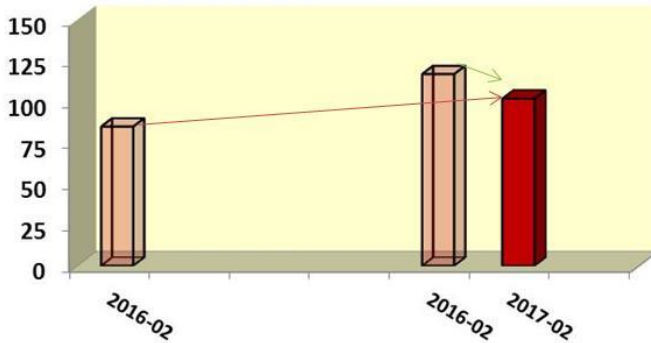
Incident date	Who	Description	Source
2017-03-07		Major clothing brands like Timberland, Vans, Nautica and The North Face say they will no longer make products derived from ancient, endangered forests	CBC Radio
2017-03-03	UNESCO	Wood Buffalo National Park Alberta World Heritage site in 1983 UNESCO issues warning about due to dams, development. UNESCO says evidence suggests the oilsands are depositing contaminants in the air, water and land. It says toxins such as <u>mercury</u> are showing up in the food web via bird eggs and fish. B.C. Hydro says the UNESCO report "chose to disregard evidence" that found its Site C project "will have no measurable effect on the Peace-Athabasca Delta."	City News

21. Fentanyl high exposure



Fentanyl overdose induced deaths per month in BC (2007 to February 2017)

February 2017
= + 20% February 2016
= - 13% January 2017



The number of opioid overdose deaths in February 2017 is 20% higher than February last year and 12% lower than last month.

Incident/report date	Who	No of samples/Results	Source
2017-03-27	Dr Meldon Kahan, Medical director	Prescriptions for painkillers still rising in Canada (& BC) despite opioid crisis [Toronto]	Global & Mail
2017-03-23	Coroner Adele Lambert	Fentanyl and heroin killed teen found in "Starbucks washroom"	CBC News
2017-03-22	Dr. Patricia Daly chief MHO – VCH	HA dealt with fentanyl epidemics in two phases. Phase 1. Significantly expand access to naloxone (last year was successful). Phase 2. Focus on opioid-agonist therapy (from now on).	Straight
2017-03-20	-	Fentanyl: is a "men's" health crisis.	Van Sun
2017-03-17	Vancouver, Surrey and Kelowna	Reported the highest death rates for that period. --- The Vancouver Coastal Health Authority had 82 deaths, or 37.4 per cent of the provincial total. Fifty-nine overdose fatalities, or 26.9 per cent, occurred in the Fraser Health Authority, which includes Surrey.	CTV News



2017-03-17	--- Dr. Evan Wood	UN adds fentanyl-making chemicals to list of controlled substances. --- the entire UN drug enforcement system "needs to be turned on its head."	CBC News
2017-03-17	Dr. Raina Fumerton	Is urging users to go slow, and carry Naloxone. "If you're gonna use, use with other people. And ensure that there is Naloxone on hand, so that if there is an overdose, it can be reversed with the antidote."	CFTK TV
2017-03-17	-	Vancouver nightclubs: an overdose minefield lies in wait	CBC News
2017-03-17	-	The number of deaths in February (the shortest month of the year) were down slightly from 117 in January to 102.	National Obs CTV News
2017-03-17	Dr. Lisa Lapointe B.C.'s Chief Coroner	While I'm very relieved to see that the numbers have not continued to increase over the last two months, we are still losing cherished members of our communities at a terrible rate. A dropping number of overdose-related deaths doesn't mean the risk of using is lower. (Tristan Le Rudulier/CBC)	CBC News
2017-03-16		Possible fentanyl exposure prompted Hazmat response at Kamloops courthouse. There was a full hazmat response for possible fentanyl exposure after a baggie with white powder broke open during a scuffle in the holding cells at the Kamloops Law Courts yesterday evening.	INFO NEWS
2017-03-16	[February's buddy, Emily Groundwater]	Narcan kits becoming a party essential	Van Courier
2017-03-16	Dr. Patricia Daly	The Mobile Medical Unit served about 1,500 patients in the first 2 months it was set up in Vancouver. It might be needed elsewhere in the province at any time for emergency purposes. B.C. paramedics concerned about misuse of naloxone.	CBC News
2017-03-15	Bronwyn Barter, the president of The Ambulance Paramedics of BC	--- Some have a false sense of security, and what they can do is something called yo-yo-ing. They'll drop a little bit of the naloxone, and they'll drop a little bit of their choice of drug and they think that that will stop them from overdosing. --- People using the syringes from naloxone kits for other drugs, leaving them without a syringe for the antidote.	CBC News
2017-03-15/16	Mayor Gregor Robertson (Van)	Vancouver mayor pleads for B.C. to direct \$10m to drug-overdose crisis	The Province
2017-03-15	A group of B.C. and Alberta pharmacists	Pharmacists petition to take 'gateway drug' codeine off the shelf in midst of fentanyl crisis. Codeine products like Tylenol (codeine is mixed with acetaminophen) 1s are available without a prescription at Canadian pharmacies. People can buy the opioid and painkiller, codeine, without a prescription at pharmacies but only when it is mixed with other substances. B.C.'s remote work camps (Tree planting, oil and gas,...) are asking for greater naloxone training.	Metro
2017-03-15	Dawson Creek's Peter Sidoruk	--- Recall at least three recent fentanyl-related overdoses involved in remote oil and gas work camps, one of which was fatal.	CBC News
2017-03-15	Justice Mary Newbury	Prison sentences for street-level trafficking of the dangerous opioid fentanyl by first-time offenders should be increased to 18 months from six, the B.C. Court of Appeal has concluded.	Times colonist
2017-03-14	Dr. Perry Kendall	Stiffer sentences could [also] be one component in the fight against fentanyl.	CBC News
2017-03-14	Dr. Wes Schreiber; Medical director for the provincial toxicology centre	Toxicology backlog delaying drug overdose test results Toxicologists saw 30% increase in testing last year. More staff and instruments needed.	CBCNews
2017-03-14	The BC's highest court	Has ruled that the sentencing for Fentanyl traffickers should be stiffer and range should be closer to between 18 and 36 months. [But 'Tough-on-crime' doesn't work, says advocate]	CBCNews News 1130 Global& Mail
2017-03-13	Ruth Elwood UBC- FofM	The women told us they needed someone to hold their hand and help them [during] the first few days after their release. A program started in 2012	Global& Mail
2017-03-13	Jarred Aasen, a pharmacist at the STS Pain Pharmacy in	More than 90 per cent of the dozens of samples it has tested contain some amount of fentanyl. Their test is qualitative. [Peer inmates are involved in 72 hours after release. he first three days of their transition [are] so hard because they have immediate, unmet health and social needs which are just so	CBC News

	Victoria	overwhelming for them.	
2017-03-11	The Shuswap Nation Tribal Council (SNTC) chiefs	B.C. Interior elders and chiefs declare state of emergency over fentanyl	CBC News
2017-03-11	Dr William Schreiber Provincial Toxicology Centre director	They are close to being able to pinpoint a handful of powerful new opioids making their way into the province's street drugs.	iNews 880
2017-03-09	Vancouver Fire	Vancouver Fire reported 174 overdose calls for the week of February 26th to March 5th, that's the highest number recorded in the city so far this year.	News 1130
2017-03-08	Dr. Jane Buxton	The language that people use, whether it's in the healthcare profession or in the media, can create stigma," It's going to prevent them from coming forward. They may be embarrassed. They may feel unable to tell their loved ones and, of course, if someone's hiding their substance use, that is so dangerous."	My Prince George Now
2017-03-08	Dr. Jarred Aasen	Staff at a Victoria pharmacy have partnered with researchers at the University of Victoria to develop a rapid, low-cost test to detect the amount of fentanyl in illicit drugs	Global News
2017-03-07	-	Alberta, B.C. to usher in new prescription rules amid opioid crisis The two Western provinces hardest hit by Canada's overdose crisis	Global & Mail
2017-03-07	Opposition parties --- Minister in charge	Unite to call for fentanyl public health emergency [ALBERTA] --- says a declaration wouldn't give Alberta any more resources	CBC News
2017-03-04	Dr. Mark Tyndall	--- Harm reduction interventions must be scaled up --- Slammed long-standing "drug policies that criminalize drug users"	Metro from BCMJ
2017-03-04	Dr. Trevor Corneil, Chief MHO with IH	Carfentanil founds in drugs used in Interior. Carfentanil has also been detected in other parts of B.C. and may be responsible for the spike in overdose deaths seen at the end of 2016.	Kamloops ThisWeek
2017-03-03	Prime Minister Justin Trudeau	The opioid crisis is devastating communities and families across Canada	CTV News
2017-03-03	Dr. Lisa Lapointe Dr. Perry Kendall	The prime minister didn't have much to say when asked about funding access to medical-grade heroin as a treatment option – a strategy both B.C.'s chief coroner Lisa Lapointe and provincial health officer Dr. Perry Kendall have suggested in recent months.	The Now
2017-03-03	Dr. Patricia Daly Chief MHO with VCH	To Trudeau: Decriminalize all illicit drugs, now. --- She is not talking about creating a legal market for illicit drugs like heroin, but "a regulatory approach that means essentially legalizing all psychoactive substances but strictly controlling their distribution.	Metro
2017-03-01	Dr. Paul Hasselback	The first overdose prevention site in Nanaimo at 437 Wesley St. has been used roughly 370 times in the first month. --- According to Island Health, there are 460 regular and 345 occasional injection users in Nanaimo with nearly 900 regular non-injection users.	Nanaimo News
2017-03-01	Chiefs of the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council	B.C. First Nation calls State of Emergency over fentanyl crisis. ---Committed to creating a plan to address the prolific state of fentanyl use and overdoses.	Klowna Now

22. BC related toxicology articles

Date	Author		Where
2017-03	Kestler A, Buxton J. et al.	Factors Associated With Participation in an Emergency Department-Based Take-Home Naloxone Program for At-Risk Opioid Users.	Ann Emerg Med. 2017 Mar;69(3):340-346.
2017-03	Sbihi H, Koehoorn M, Tamburic L, Brauer M.	Asthma Trajectories in a Population-based Birth Cohort. Impacts of Air Pollution and Greenness.	Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2017 Mar 1;195(5):607-613
2017-03	Tyndall M,	Perspectives on the drug overdose crisis in BC.	BCMJ. March 2017 59 (2); 89.
2017-03	Krstić G.	Radon versus other lung cancer risk factors: How accurate are the attribution estimates?	J Air Waste Manag Assoc. 2017 Mar;67(3):261-266.

23. Meetings

Date	Title	Where
2017-04-20	NCCEH Environmental Health Seminar Series - Widening the Health Lens in the Environmental Impact Assessment Process: Lessons Learned in the George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project	12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Online
2017-04-16	Dr. Paul Hasselback; "drug overdoses and deaths in Nanaimo"	Van Island Mental Health Society
2017-04-07	UBC-SPPH-OEH Seminars. Meanwhile, back at the ranch: Health effects of air pollution in rural areas. Dave Stieb Health Canada and University of Ottawa School of Epidemiology, Public Health and Preventive Medicine	Online
2017-04-21	The Fentanyl Crisis: A Men's Health Perspective. 4 out of 5 fentanyl deaths in B.C. are males. What are we to make of this deadly gender disparity? by Dr. Dan Bilsker. SFU	06:30 p.m. to 08:30 p.m.
2017-03-28 to 30	Spring (146 th) Health Officers Council Conference (March 28-30, 2017)	Victoria
2017-03-17	UBC-SPPH-OEH Seminars. Air quality and demands for ambulance services. Is there an association? Dr Fay Johnston. Menzies Institute for Medical Research, University of Tasmania and Department of Health and Human Services.	12:30 to 1:30 pm. Room B151, SPPH Building, 2206 East Mall, Vancouver, B.C. Online
2017-03-14	BCCDC Public Health Grand Rounds. Mesmerizing History of Toxicology. Reza Afshari. Environmental Health Services. BC Centre for Disease Control	12:00 to 1:00 pm. Online
2017-03-03	The Art and Science of Working with Fungi: Growing Mushrooms for Food, Medicine and Soil	6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Italian Cultural Centre, 3075 Slocan St., Vancouver

24. Other conferences

Date	Title	Where
2017-10-11/15	North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology (NACCT) Congress 2017.	Vancouver

25. Toxicology jobs in BC

Date	Title	Where
2017-10-11/15	Scientific Director, Provincial Toxicology Centre	PHSA-Vancouver

26. Other

Incident/ report date	Who	Area Location	Description	Source
2017-03-28			[President Donald Trump will sign executive orders that would effectively dismantle Obama-era environmental regulations, rekindling the highly charged partisan debate about how human activity affects the earth's climate, and deepening concern decades of work on global climate treaties may be unraveling.]	VOA
2017-03-13			Certain licensed producer's purported use of unapproved pesticides based on Medical Marijuana Stock News.	Investor Ideas
2017-03-03		BC	Victoria ready to crack down on non-compliant pot shops City says 16 pot shops have not applied for necessary zoning or licences required under new rules	CBC News
2017-03-03	UNESCO	Wood Buffalo National Park Alberta World Heritage site in 1983	UNESCO issues warning about due to dams, development. UNESCO says evidence suggests the oilsands are depositing contaminants in the air, water and land. It says toxins such as <u>mercury</u> are showing up in the food web via bird eggs and fish. B.C. Hydro says the UNESCO report "chose to disregard evidence" that found its Site C project "will have no measurable effect on the Peace-Athabasca Delta."	City News
2017-03-03			Reprintable Paper Becomes a Reality. A new nanoparticle coating may allow the material to be erased and reused more than 80 times	Scientific American
2017-03-03	the Fraser Institute's latest annual global survey of mining		British Columbia and Ontario—two of Canada's largest mining jurisdictions—dropped in this year's rankings of the world's most attractive mining investment destinations. Saskatchewan and Manitoba — are the world's top two most attractive mining investment	Business Vancouver



	executives	destinations,	
2017-03-03	Damian Gillis and Fiona Rayher's documentary Fractured Land	Maple Ridge Festival of B.C. Film to give local cinematic talent the spotlight. The film focuses on indigenous leader, lawyer, and environmental activist Caleb Behn as he strives to balance traditional ways of life while protecting the land from threats such as fracking.	Straight
2017-03-03	RiverBlue' at Langley Int. Film Fest- Williams	Can fashion save the planet? The consumer can vote with their dollars. They don't have to buy fast fashion, they can buy better quality. T-shirts that only last five or six washes, why? And that's a \$5 T-shirt. Maybe you buy a \$20 T-shirt and it lasts for two or three years. (Something like organic food movement)	Langley Times
2017-03-09	U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt In an interview on CNBC	Carbon dioxide not 'primary contributor' to climate change [Global warming]	Science CNBC
