

Facebook Post by Charles Blum, 28 March 2022 at 12:09PM

I live and work near Santa Monica Airport. Over this past year I have found out that since lead was considered toxic and removed from paints and automobile fuel for over 30 years that the FAA has supported the continued use of leaded aviation fuel.

The FAA which is supposed to be protecting the public appears to be only concerned with protecting aviation interests and this includes making it as convenient as possible for them to fly whenever they like. So approximately 80% of all the airborne lead in our country is generated by general aviation (not the jets that we fly on commercially). This means the wealthy person who owns their own plane and enjoys recreational flying around.

Originally it was found that those .5 miles from the airport were in the most danger of lead toxicity. But by 2010 it was found that the figure was more accurately at .7 miles from the airport and by 2019 it was found to be 1.5 mile radius from the airport, representing a diameter of 3 miles for a circle of toxicity around the airport.

While adults and pets are adversely affected by lead toxicity what is particularly pernicious is that developing children's nervous systems are irreparably damaged and will never be able to function optimally ever again. Multiple studies are showing that children around general airports such as Santa Monica Airport have significant lower IQ scores than those not living around airports.

TOXIC LEADED AVIATION FUEL

Lead poisoning

Lead buildup in the body causes serious health problems

Symptoms

- Headaches
- Irritability
- Reduced sensations
- Aggressive behavior
- Difficulty sleeping
- Abdominal pain
- Poor appetite
- Constipation
- Anemia

Additional complications for children:

Lead is more harmful to children as it can affect developing nerves and brains

- ▶ Loss of developmental skills
- ▶ Behavior, attention problems
- ▶ Hearing loss
- ▶ Kidney damage
- ▶ Reduced IQ
- ▶ Slowed body growth

Source: MedlinePlus/Mayo Clinic 240809 AFP

If you go to the FAA website you will see they claim they are working hard at eliminating lead from aviation fuel for now over 30 years. However their promises of the years have clearly been shown to be self-serving stall tactics. We have seen multiple studies that show that at least 80% of the general aviation planes can fly on unleaded aviation fuel but until this is mandated by the FAA leaded fuel is being continued to be sold and utilized by ALL general aviation airports throughout the country.

It has taken the EPA 30 years to finally make an "endangerment finding" on leaded aviation fuel, though this was made of automobile fuel 30 years ago. So this seems to be mostly talk since they are not acting on their endangerment finding and they seem to be working hand in hand with the FDA. Even the CDC is reluctantly mentioning the dangers of leaded aviation fuel on its website. So all these agencies are working together for the best interest of a very very small financially wealthy minority that enjoys recreational flying.

Where are the PTAs, the parents of children in preschools and those children playing in playgrounds and in play centers that surround these airports. Who will be the voice of the 10s of thousands of children around Santa Monica Airport as they are being poisoned and left with developmentally damaged nervous systems that they will need to live with the rest of their life?

If this is happening in an upper class economical setting like we find around Santa Monica Airport, what is happening with the majority of general aviation airports around lower income families that have less of a voice? Who will be there for these millions of children adversely affected as research now shows lead in their bodies at levels higher than those in children during the Flint Michigan crisis?