

Citizens of Spokane

Dr. Albert Rizzo, chairman of the board of the American Lung Association said that soot, also known as fine particle pollution, is a known killer. "The science is clear and overwhelming evidence shows that particle pollution at levels currently labeled as officially safe causes heart attacks, strokes, and asthma attacks."

The EPA says pollution from coal-fired power plants kill up to 36,000 people every year.

The children are the most vulnerable to these toxic pollutants.

The EPA also estimates that 2,000 premature newborns could be saved if the soot level is lowered.

Our downtown area and our schools and hospitals have been built next to railroads carrying coal. Coal and diesel both are associated with lung disease and asthma.

Remember that the fine particle pollution floats in the air for months.

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has been required by a lawsuit from **11 states including Washington to reduce the amount of soot to 12-13 micrograms per cubic meter of air from the current 15.**

We need to keep the soot levels below 12 micrograms per cubic meter of air in schools, hospitals, and nursing homes.

Remember years ago, citizens and doctors got the government to take away the lead in gasoline and children's health improved. Now we should reduce or stop coal to keep our children healthy.

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