

# BREATHERS' GUIDE

## TO MIDLOTHIAN AIR POLLUTION

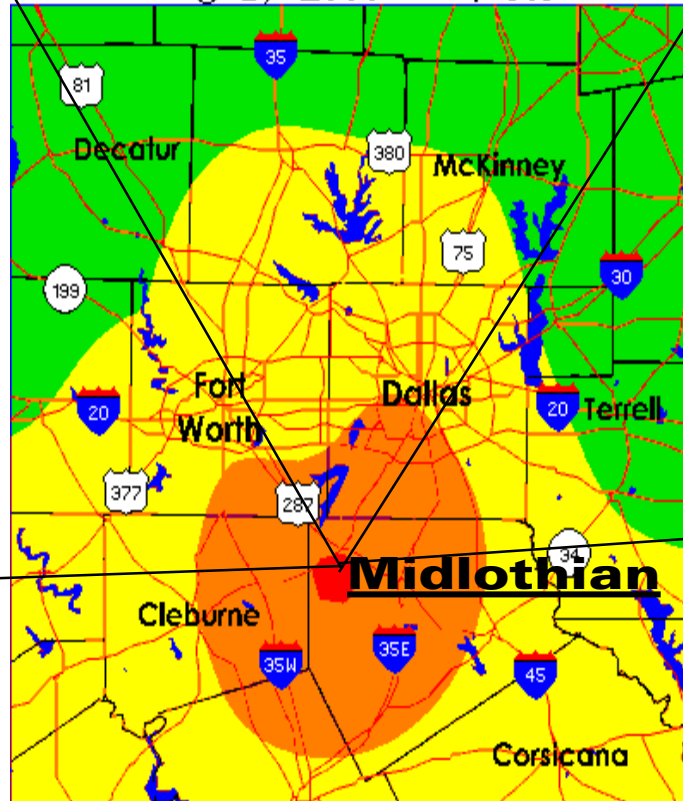
### 4 of the Top 6 Air Polluters in North Texas

Midlothian, only a few miles south and upwind of DFW is home to 3 large cement plants - two of which burn tires and the other hazardous waste. It's also home to one of the country's largest steel mills. Just these four plants produce more industrial air pollution than all industries in both Dallas and Tarrant Counties combined. Over 56,000,000 pounds of five federal "priority pollutants" were released into the air from them in 1999 alone.

### Health Survey Finds Respiratory Problems

A 1998 journal-published and peer-reviewed health survey directed by a University of Texas toxicologist concluded residents living "downwind" of the Midlothian cement plants and steel mill had a rate of respiratory problems 30% higher than among those living "upwind."

North-Central Texas  
Aug 1, 2000 7 PM



Typical August Day:  
Smog Pollution Plume  
Originating from Midlothian

Source: Texas Natural Resource  
Conservation Commission

### TXI Cement Continues to Burn Hazardous Waste

TXI's Midlothian cement plant holds the largest hazardous waste permit in the entire nation. It gets paid to burn toxins in its huge furnaces while also making cement. In 1998 (the latest year available) TXI released 713,041 pounds of toxic pollution from this plant, including styrene, chromium, toluene and xylene emissions. That was a 12% increase from the year before.

### Area's Largest Industrial Smog Polluters

Smog pollution created by Midlothian plants poisons all of DFW. It accounts for half of all industrial smog created in north Texas every year. TXI's cement plant is the single largest source of industrial smog pollution. TXI is suing the state of Texas over new anti-smog rules that would reduce emissions.

## BECAUSE YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW

## Downwinders at Risk:

We serve as an information clearinghouse for citizens' groups nationally and internationally, including Puerto Rico, Great Britain, Mexico, Montana, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and Michigan.

We're a group trying to reduce industrial air pollution in the Dallas-Ft. Worth, primarily focusing on the three cement plants and steel mill located in Midlothian. These plants account for almost half of all area industrial air pollution.

We received the Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste Award in 1998 for our grassroots organizing.

We publish Smoke & Mirrors, a quarterly newsletter documenting the dangers of pollution nationwide.

We produced, with the American Lung Association, a 15-minute video entitled "Danger Downwind" about the hazards of burning hazardous waste in cement plants.

We persuaded local city and county governments in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area to quit sending household hazardous wastes they collect to under-regulated cement kilns.

We helped network with local PTAs across Texas to pass a resolution and legislative positions at the State PTA convention in 1996 urging tighter restrictions for cement kiln incineration of hazardous waste and tires.

We're responsible for making sure that the recent state anti-smog plan included reductions from the Midlothian cement plants.

We recently help found the Blue Skies Alliance, a new coalition of clean air groups for DFW.

### Downwinders At Risk

707 Wylie Cedar Hill, Tx. 75104  
972.293.8300 tel. 972.293.8400 fax  
[www.downwindersatrisk.org](http://www.downwindersatrisk.org)

## What You Can Do To Help:

Right now the Texas Legislature is Meeting in Austin. State Senator Chris Harris from Arlington is proposing legislation that finally does something about cleaning-up the oldest and dirtiest cement plants in Midlothian, just south of Dallas-Ft. Worth. The first hurdle this legislation faces is a vote in the Senate Natural Resources Committee. Below is the membership of that Committee. Please write or call these seven state senators and tell them you want them to support Senator Harris' efforts to reduce the pollution from these older cement plants - some of which date back to the 1960's and still only have the same basic pollution control equipment they had when they started. Please also contact local DFW state Senators listed below.

### **Senate Natural Resources Committee**

Chairman J. E. "Buster" Brown	512/463-0117
Vice-Chair Robert Duncan	512/463-0128
Gonzalo Barrientos	512/463-0114
David Bernsen	512/463-0104
Teel Bivins	512/463-0131
Tom Haywood	512/463-0130
Eddie Lucio, Jr.	512/463-0127

### Mailing Address for all Senators:

Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711-2068

### Others State Senators to contact:

Mike Moncrief, Ft. Worth	512/463-0112
David Cain, Dallas	512/463-0102
John Corona, N. Dallas	512/463-0116
Florence Shapiro, Collin Co.	512/463-0108
Royce West, Dallas	512/463-0123