

Would You Want To Know?

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According to a study which appears in the September issue of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, preliminary research has shown that benzene emissions from gas stations and auto repair shops may quadruple the risk of leukemia in children who live near these types of establishments. The connection that benzene causes cancer was made back in the early 1900's.

Benzene is a clear, colorless, non-corrosive, highly flammable liquid with a strong odor. Benzene was discovered in 1825 by the English scientist Michael Faraday, who isolated it from oil gas and gave it the name bicarburet of hydrogen. The Environmental Protection Agency classifies benzene as a "known carcinogen" and it ranks #6 on the CERCLA Hazardous Substance List (CERCLA: Comprehensive Environmental

Response, Compensation and Liability Act, commonly known as "Superfund"). Benzene is widely used in the United States and ranks among the top 20 chemicals produced. Brief exposure of

dizziness, rapid heart rate, headaches, tremors, confusion, and unconsciousness.

Benzene is absorbed predominantly through the inhalation of benzene vapors and through the skin. Auto exhaust and industrial emissions account for about 20 percent of the total nationwide exposure to benzene. Individuals may also be exposed to benzene by consuming contaminated water. Leakage from underground storage tanks or from other hazardous waste sites containing benzene can result in benzene contamination of well water.

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around 5-10 minutes to very high levels of benzene in the air (10,000-20,000 ppm) can result in death. Lower levels (700-3,000 ppm) can cause drowsiness

OPPORTUNITIES for Brokers, Owners and Real Estate Agents

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