

3rd June 2010

To all Board Members

EPA
GPO Box 1550
Hobart
Tasmania. 7001

Dear Chairman and Members of the Board,

Smoke Inhalation

It saddens me to have to write to the Board about a matter that has been festering across Tasmania for many years now, and one which erupts for many months each year across our beautiful state. This year has been no different; people have had to inhale smoke.

You would know from my previous dealing with the Board that I am talking about pernicious smoke from forestry burning, in particular residue burning.

The Board knows the harmful effects of this wood smoke and they know it is the biggest polluter many times over in our state (EPA documents) and yet it is still allowed to occur and the EPA has endorsed it. I believe the EPA has failed in its duty to administer the EMPCA as it is required to do. I feel to endorse such an uncoordinated smoke trial, which results in very high levels of smoke deliberately harming people is not within the meaning of the Act.

You are aware that I have been on blood thinners since the smoke from the 2008 plannedburn season when I suffered severe asthma, clots, below the knee DVT, and PE's in both lungs.

Since then I have had trouble regulating my blood clotting times whilst the elevated smoke levels rise and fall, and as a result of this smoke I am also forced at various times to take corticosteroids, antibiotics, and pain killers concurrently.

It is known that having to take these drugs concurrently can result in heightened blood thinning. It is also known that fine particle pollution (smoke) causes blood thickening, but these highs and lows do not counteract each other; they just make the medication harder to control and put the patient's life at risk from clotting or bleeding.

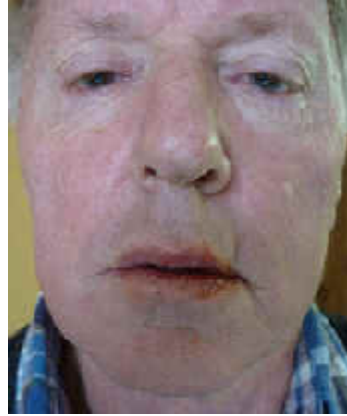
On the 22/4/2010 I woke from three hours sleep with blood coming freely out of the tissue in my lips, tongue, inside my cheeks, and inside my throat.
This was in addition to asthma.

.../2

(2)



From this....



...to this

A close-up of the above photo of my wiped mouth clearly shows the process.



I believe we have been exposed to criminal levels of deliberate particulate pollution (see below) from the failed Forest Practices Authority's Co-ordinated Smoke Management Smoke Strategy (CSMS) trials and my photos clearly show the outcome.

Had these bleeds occurred in my eye, brain or gut, which was a real possibility, then the outcome would have been catastrophic. This could still happen unless these deliberate smoke events stop. I am not the only person affected by this smoke.

(3)

The following article was printed recently in the Mercury newspaper:

“The Forest Practices Authority’s 2009/2010 Co-ordinated Smoke Management Strategy for planned burning is a failure.

Can you believe the aim of the CSMS trial is to try and maximize the amount of smoke pumped into the atmosphere which people breathe?

When nature has had enough of all the plannedburn smoke like last week, it vomits it all over us.

The CSMS trial is a failure because...

- It uses a primitive algorithm to predict weather conditions which are often wrong. The Bureau of Meteorology acknowledges “actual” smoke calculations have considerable uncertainty.
- It is voluntary, many burners are not using it so it flawed.
- Many existing burns are not taken into account so the modeling is wrong.
- Real-time results of the calculations are not being made public.
- All the burns and their details are not on one public accessible internet map.
- It uses airsheds which do not relate to populated areas.
- It says it is safe to burn when wind direction is predicted towards populated areas.
- Burns increase background smoke for some time after the burns are deemed to be out.
- It is secretive and pro burner, i.e., not for the benefit of the greater population.
- Respiratory patients are suffering badly. Cardiac patients are at high risk.
- Many people will have their lives shortened as a result of the raised smoke levels.
- Health effects from particulate matter occur after exposures of just 2-4 hours or less in duration of wood smoke at the 12 – 29ug/m³ range (Koenig et al. 1993)
- Readings have been up in the 100’s of ug/m³ for hours at a time here in Tas. and have peaked I believe at 1000ug/m³.

The burning of forest industries waste must stop and the failed FPA’s smoke trial must end.”

I trust that the EPA Board will now concede that the CSMS trial is a failure and withdraw support for it. It has been clearly shown that population health has been put at great risk because of it. Forestry burns must end straight away to prevent undeniable, immediate, and life-long suffering.

Further, as a result of my very serious health episodes directly related to this smoke, I am asking the matter be dealt with at the earliest opportunity, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Clive M. Stott
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