

# marilee dea

## Kalama Methanol Terminal

My name is Marilee Dea, I am a public health Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. I coordinated pediatric prevention programs for Multnomah County, including the Lead and Asthma prevention programs.

We found that folks that live near air polluting industrial plants busy diesel truck roadways had a much higher rate, 40 % higher rate of asthma episodes. Why, because of visible and invisible gas, smoke, dust is being inhaled- especially diesel fine particulate matter in an irritant to the lungs.

The Kalama methanol refinery, the largest methanol refinery in the world, will have mile high plumes releasing carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds and fine particulate matter. Methanol, itself is highly flammable and toxic to humans and animals. People living near this plant will be at higher risk for asthma because the visible and invisible irritating chemicals are inhaled.

How many of you have seen a severe asthma attack or have friends or family with asthma? It is scary, this is what is happening- when the irritant or allergen is inhaled~ causes airway swelling, mucous, chest muscle tighten and the airway narrows, it can get so tight it is difficult to get air in or out of the lungs, hence wheezing and coughing occurs to force air in and out. You can't speak in full sentences, you get confused and need to sit or stand to breath- your face begins to turn blue. What should you do? Get their restrictive clothes off, run for the inhaler, and emergency meds if they have them. Have them take long slow deep breaths and pray they get better and prepare to get to a hospital. I have had a friend die at the beach because he was too far from a hospital. Is this the life you want in Kalama- especially in the summer when it is hot, smoggy or when forest fire smog rolls in.