

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Network for the Chemically Injured

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DIESEL AMBULANCE EMISSIONS GIVE NEW MEANING TO “DEAD ON ARRIVAL”

Recognition of health risks to children caused by diesel emissions from idling school buses has led the way to review other at risk populations, including those who call 911 to be transported to hospitals in diesel powered ambulances. Those experiencing a heart attack, giving birth to a baby, or suffering from bodily injury caused by an automobile or other accident, do not need to be placed at further risk by inhaling harmful diesel emissions.

According to fire officials, ambulance engines are routinely left idling for a number of reasons including potential failure to re-start the engine and because the flashing emergency safety lights consume a great deal of power which is provided by the engine.

Jeff Moyer, vice president of the Ohio Network for the Chemically Injured (ONFCI) who does volunteer work for hospice reflected, “A common sight that never fails to make me shudder is an idling ambulance at the door of the facility filling the air and building with noxious diesel fumes as a dying patient is being delivered through the toxic haze.”

Diesel engine retrofits, an available cure to curtail toxic diesel emissions, are costly. But help is on the way in the form of a two-year Ohio Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant (DERG) Fund program announced by the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD). Go to www.odod.state.oh.us/diesel%2Demissions/ for details. For additional information about other diesel grant opportunities and the health effects from diesel exposures contact David Celebrezze, David@theoec.org at the Ohio Environmental Council or www.theoec.org/AirDiesel.htm .

ONFCI recommends that all citizens contact their mayor and local fire chief to inform them about diesel retrofit grants. Urge them to apply for funding in order to provide a safer ambulance service in your community.

ONFCI is a not-for-profit organization that educates about and advocates on behalf of those who have been harmed by toxic chemicals in our everyday environment. Those who are exposed to diesel and other gas emissions may become sensitized to other chemicals or develop other serious health conditions. For more information about ONFCI visit www.ohionetwork.org .

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