Exposure to diesel particulate matter, hydrogen sulfide, toxics, including benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene, and other volatile hydrocarbons can lead to:

- **Eye, nose, and throat irritation**
- **Respiratory problems**, including cough, shortness of breath, airway and lung inflammation, decreased lung function, worsening of asthma and other respiratory diseases, increased hospital admissions, and premature mortality
- **Cardiovascular problems**, including high blood pressure, heart attacks, and worsening of cardiac diseases
- **Brain and nervous system problems**, including headaches, lightheadedness, and disorientation
- **Damage to the blood and bone marrow leading to anemia and immunological problems**
- **Reproductive system effects**
- **Effects on fetal and child development**
- **Cancer and premature mortality**

Sources: ATSDR factsheets on nitrogen oxides, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene. www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/Index.asp

OEHHA factsheet on health effects of diesel particulate matter. oehha.ca.gov/public_info/facts/dieselfacts.html

NIOSH pocket guide to chemical hazards: hydrogen sulfide. www.cdc.gov/niosh/pg/hpg00137.html

US EPA on volatile organic compounds and ozone. www.epa.gov/groundlevelozone/basic.html

Nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds form ground-level ozone in the presence of sunlight, which can cause:

- **Respiratory problems**, including coughs, shortness of breath, airway and lung inflammation, decreased lung function, worsening of asthma and other respiratory diseases
- **Cardiovascular effects**, including cardiac arrhythmia, increased risk of heart disease, heart attacks, and stroke

Emissions of carbon dioxide and methane contribute to climate change. Methane warms the climate at least 80 times more than an equal amount of carbon dioxide over a 20-year period.