

NONROAD DIESEL: THE NEXT PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGE

Patricia Monahan

Union of Concerned Scientists

Construction equipment, agricultural vehicles, and other non-road engines and vehicles release more toxic particulates than highway heavy-duty diesel vehicles. Yet these types of vehicles have historically received little regulatory oversight, and there are relatively few emission controls developed specifically for non-road equipment.

A new study by state air pollution officials indicates that 8,500 deaths per year could be avoided if the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency were to adopt a non-road diesel rule consistent with the current highway rule for heavy-duty diesel vehicles. California could avoid 770 premature deaths and over 16,000 asthma attacks per year through the harmonization of the non-road and highway standards. Reducing pollution from non-road diesel vehicles is the next public health priority.