

Your Health and Vapor Intrusion

COMMERCIAL – EMPLOYEE NOTIFICATION

Your workplace is in an area where the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (or another entity) is conducting a vapor intrusion investigation.

What is Vapor Intrusion?

Chemicals that have been spilled or dumped on the ground can pollute soil and groundwater. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are chemicals that easily evaporate into air. VOCs that evaporate from polluted soil and groundwater can create chemical vapors underground.

If these vapors move and come in contact with a building, they may enter through cracks in the foundation, around pipes, or through a drain system. The VOCs can then contaminate indoor air. This process - when pollution moves from air spaces in soil to indoor air - is called vapor intrusion.



Should I be concerned?



If your workplace is affected by vapor intrusion, people in the building may breathe contaminated air. Usually, the amount of chemicals that enter a building from contaminated soil vapor is not a health concern for most people. However, even small amounts of some contaminants may pose a health concern for sensitive individuals, especially for **women who are pregnant or may become pregnant**. If you are a sensitive individual who regularly occupies a building where vapor intrusion may be occurring, please notify the Minnesota Department of Health.

Questions? Contact the Minnesota Department of Health

Site Assessment and Consultation Unit
Call (651) 201-4897 or Email health.hazard@state.mn.us

[MDH Vapor Intrusion](#)

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/hazardous/topics/vaporintrusion.html>