PEER Life Science Toxic or Not Notes Outline KEY

**Introduction**

* People can be exposed to environmental hazards through inhalation, or entry through the respiratory system.
* Inhaled environmental hazards are also known as environmental pollutants. They are classified into indoor pollutants, outdoor pollutants, and special environment pollutants.

**Lesson**

* The Respiratory System is the group of organs responsible for breathing.
* Air pollutants can enter your body through the air you breathe. These pollutants can cause harmful effects on your lungs, which can negatively affect your health.
* Children are particularly susceptible to air pollutants for many reasons, including the fact that they have smaller/larger air passages than adults, which can cause more issues if they are blocked by pollutants.
* An indoor air pollutant is a substance present inside buildings that has negative health effects on the occupants of the building. Pollution sources that release gases or particles into the air are the primary cause of indoor air quality problems.
* Inadequate ventilation can increase indoor pollutant levels by not bringing in enough outdoor air to dilute emissions from indoor sources.
* Indoor air pollutants can come from many sources, including deteriorated asbestos-containing insulation and excess moisture.
* The relative importance of any single source of pollution depends on how much of a given pollutant is emitted and how hazardous the emission is.
* Indoor air pollutants can cause symptoms like sneezing, itchy eyes, coughing, and wheezing.
* Outdoor air pollution can be caused by anthropogenic sources, such as from burning fossil fuels, or from natural processes.
* Outdoor air pollutants pose a special risk to construction workers and farmers that work outside. Levels of air pollutants are measured in terms of ozone levels.
* Heavy exposure to grain dust for agricultural workers can cause a respiratory disease called Farmer’s Lung. Outdoor air pollutants tend to worsen or cause respiratory problems such as asthma and emphysema.
* The best protection from outdoor air pollutants is to remain indoors or to wear a dust mask when working in a dusty environment.
* When dealing with arts and crafts, there are three major types of hazards to deal with: heavy metals like lead and mercury, organic solvents like paint thinners, and dust and fibers like asbestos.
* Art supplies are/are not regulated, which can lead to paint and materials containing hazardous metals.
* Organic solvents can cause irritation, nerve damage, and death if ingested.
* Fibers and dust can get into your lungs if inhaled and cause scarring of the lungs or be absorbed into your bloodstream.
* Mycotoxins are produced by molds and can be avoided through proper cleaning and adequate ventilation.
* The biggest risk that workplace chemicals pose to those under 18 is exposure through inhalation.
* Waste sites can cause ground, water, and air pollution.