



## Six Common Air Pollutants

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### **Chief Causes for Concern**

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#### **NO<sub>x</sub>**

- is one of the main ingredients involved in the formation of ground-level ozone, which can trigger serious respiratory problems.
- reacts to form nitrate particles, acid aerosols, as well as NO<sub>2</sub>, which also cause respiratory problems.
- contributes to formation of acid rain.
- contributes to nutrient overload that deteriorates water quality.
- contributes to atmospheric particles, that cause visibility impairment most noticeable in national parks.
- reacts to form toxic chemicals.
- contributes to global warming.

#### **Nitrogen Oxides**

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- [Health & Enviro Impacts](#)
- [EPA Efforts to Reduce NO<sub>x</sub>](#)
- [EPA Offices](#)
- [NO<sub>x</sub>: How nitrogen oxides affect the way we live and breathe \(PDF\) \(4pp, 774k\)](#)

**NO<sub>x</sub> and the pollutants formed from NO<sub>x</sub> can be transported over long distances,** following the pattern of prevailing winds in the U.S. This means that problems associated with NO<sub>x</sub> are not confined to areas where NO<sub>x</sub> are emitted. Therefore, controlling NO<sub>x</sub> is often most effective if done from a regional perspective, rather than focusing on sources in one local area.