

Coal: Health Facts



Coal is safe, inert and has been transported safely for more than 50 years.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer does not include coal dust on its list of carcinogenic agents harmful to humans.

In 2014, Delta conducted monitoring to investigate concentrations of coal dust in the community and found it well below regulated levels.



BC'S COAL INDUSTRY WORKS HARD TO MEET OR EXCEED STANDARDS SET TO KEEP WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES SAFE



COAL IS NOT CLASSED AS A DANGEROUS OR HAZARDOUS MATERIAL BY TRANSPORT CANADA



IT IS SAFE TO HANDLE COAL WITH YOUR HANDS

A 2016 Metro Vancouver study found that "average particulate matter levels near railway lines are generally comparable to those found elsewhere in the region."

In 2014, the Northwest Clean Air Agency - which enforces government clean air standards in the U.S. Pacific Northwest - released a study indicating that after a year's worth of monitoring, coal dust is simply not a cause for concern.



RAIL TRANSPORTATION

Rail is the most environmentally responsible way to move our natural resources - up to four times more efficient than trucks.

Each rail car is sprayed with a polymer coating that forms a thin crust on the coal to keep it in place.



A single freight train replaces up to 280 trucks, saving 35,000 litres in fuel and 100 tonnes of GHG emissions.

Railways in Canada have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 44.6% since 1990, even with traffic increasing by 95.2%.



TERMINALS

Metro Vancouver's air monitoring results show continuous year-over-year improvements in air quality even as marine terminal activity has increased.



Marine terminals use advanced dust suppression systems to ensure coal does not leave the terminal.



Electric rail car positioning equipment and ultra-low emission locomotives are used at many terminals, significantly reducing noise and emissions.