



EPA'S TOXICS RELEASE INVENTORY (TRI): THE DIAZ FAMILY LEARNS THAT THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW ABOUT TOXIC CHEMICALS IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD



EPA

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

EPA-909-K-14-001

THE DIAZ FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS



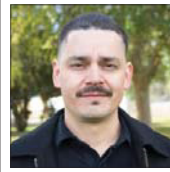
Julio



Johnny



Rosie



Cesar



Lupe



Dolores



Miguel

Julio's family has gathered at the park for lunch after his soccer game...



Wow, Julio, you played really well!



Thanks, it was a hard game. I'm pretty hungry now!



Don't worry, Julio, we have lots of food here for you and your team.



Hey, Mom?

Yes, Julio?



Who lives there? That's the biggest chimney I have ever seen!



That's not a house, silly. It's a factory.



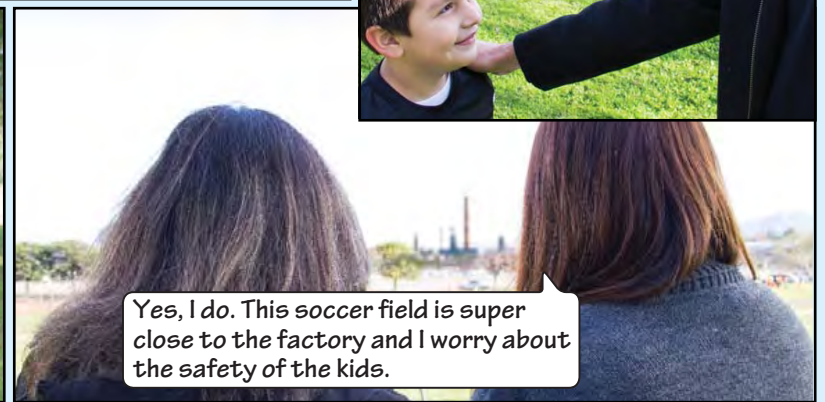
Why does a factory need a chimney?



It's called a smokestack, son. It lets smoke and steam from inside the factory get out. Sometimes chemicals get out, too, and go into the air.



Rosie, do you wonder what's coming out of that smokestack?



Yes, I do. This soccer field is super close to the factory and I worry about the safety of the kids.



I wish there was *something* I could do to learn more about that factory and other ones around here, but I don't know where to start.



It seems like we should have the RIGHT TO KNOW about what is coming out of factories in our neighborhood.

Another parent, Miguel, overhears the conversation and joins in...



Hi, how is everybody? You know, I work at that factory! There is a law that says that certain factories must tell us about the chemicals they are using, including how much of each is released into the environment through smokestacks and wastewater pipes, or placed directly onto the land.



But I don't see any smoke coming out of that smokestack.



You may not see anything. Some chemicals come out as fumes that you can't see...

But how can we find out about the chemicals that come out of the factory?



...and others are mixed with water that leaves factories through pipes.



From a website run by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) called TRI! TRI stands for "Toxics Release Inventory." Congress created the TRI in the 1980's as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.



I can show you on my phone. You can look it up on a computer, too.



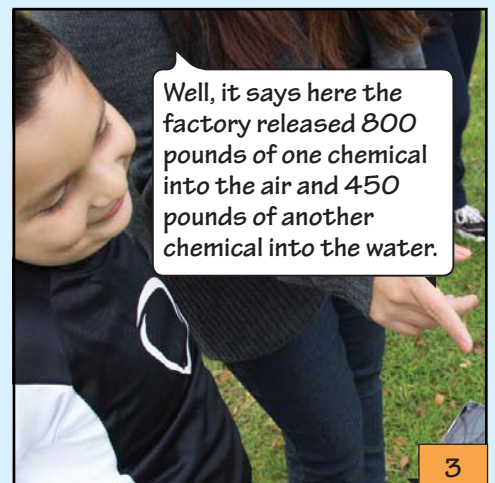
Look, all I do is go to www.epa.gov/tri, scroll to the bottom of the page, and I can type in our street address or search using our current location.



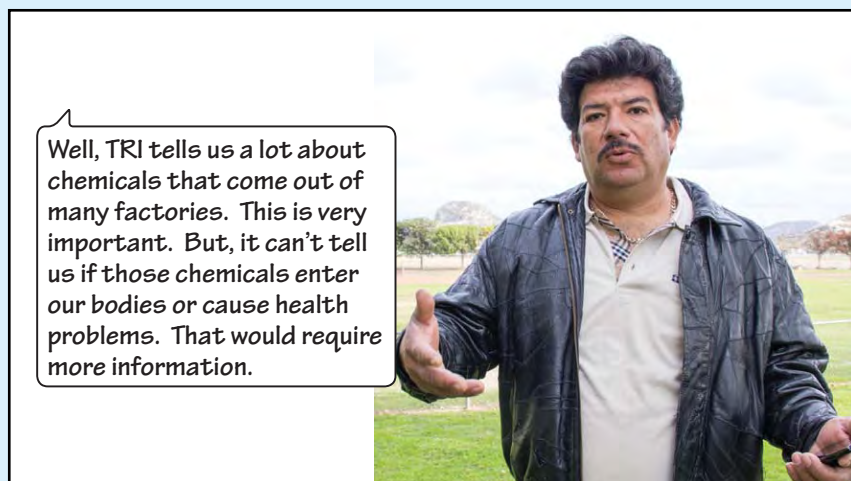
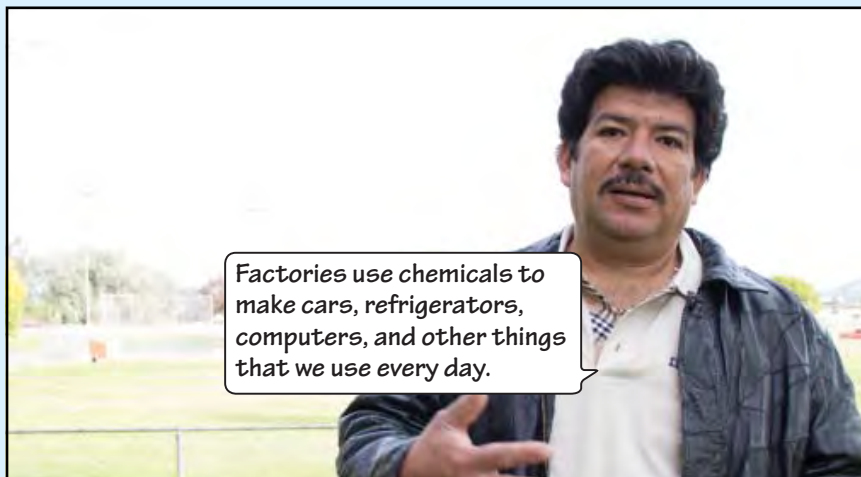
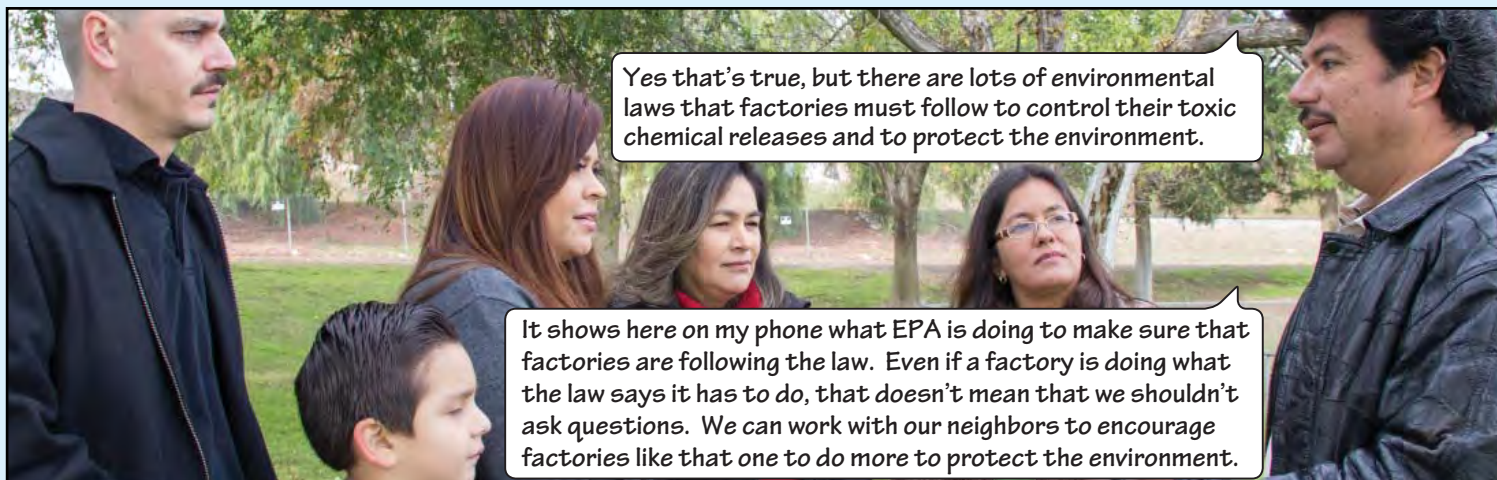
Wow! It shows a map of our whole neighborhood. See Julio, we're here and there's the factory where Miguel works.



What does it say, Mom?



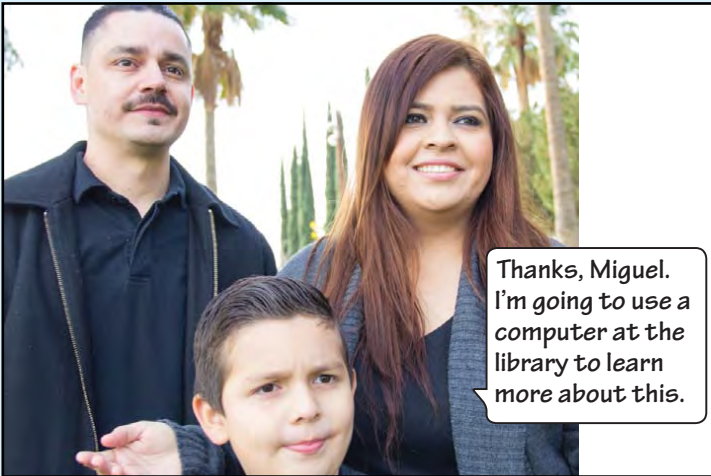
Well, it says here the factory released 800 pounds of one chemical into the air and 450 pounds of another chemical into the water.



For example, you won't find information in TRI about pollution from cars and trucks, gas stations, and lead paint in homes. But TRI can help us find out a lot about pollution from many factories. It can also tell us whether or not they are trying to prevent or reduce their pollution.



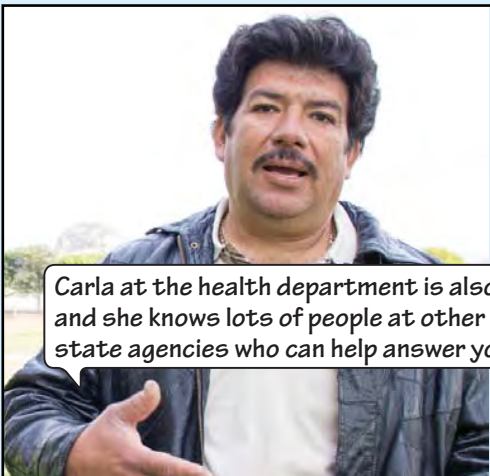
Thanks, Miguel. I'm going to use a computer at the library to learn more about this.



We can talk to my science teacher, too. She knows a lot about environmental issues and she runs an environmental group in town.



Carla at the health department is also very helpful, and she knows lots of people at other local and state agencies who can help answer your questions.



Yes, having this information is so important. And it's our **RIGHT TO KNOW!**



It's also my right to eat! Ok, everybody, let's have lunch. Our food is getting cold!!!



FOR MORE INFORMATION, you can go to these resources:

- Website for general TRI information: www.epa.gov/tri
- Website for information for communities: www.epa.gov/tri/communities
- Contact the TRI COORDINATOR for your EPA region: www.epa.gov/tri/regionalcoordinators
- Email the TRI TEAM AT EPA: tri.help@epa.gov