

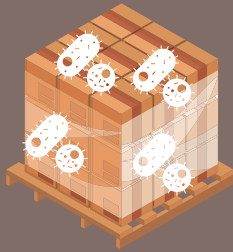
# Ethylene Oxide

A flammable colorless gas

## What is EtO used for?

EtO is used to make chemicals such as antifreeze, detergents, and pesticides

EtO is used to sterilize medical equipment and cosmetics by destroying the DNA of bacteria and viruses



## Local Sources of EtO

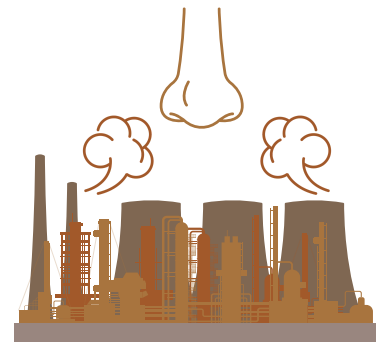
**Sterigenics International Inc.**  
4900 Gifford Ave  
Vernon, CA 90058  
500 feet from nearest residential area &  
1700 feet from nearest school

**Parter Medical Products Inc.**  
17015 Kingsview Ave  
Carson, CA 90746  
700 feet from nearest residential area &  
2000 feet from nearest school

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

## How are people exposed to EtO?

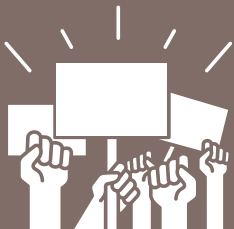
EtO from nearby sterilization facilities or other facilities that use EtO can be inhaled and get inside your body



## What Can We Do?

Push for sterilization facilities to switch to hydrogen peroxide, a safer sterilizing alternative

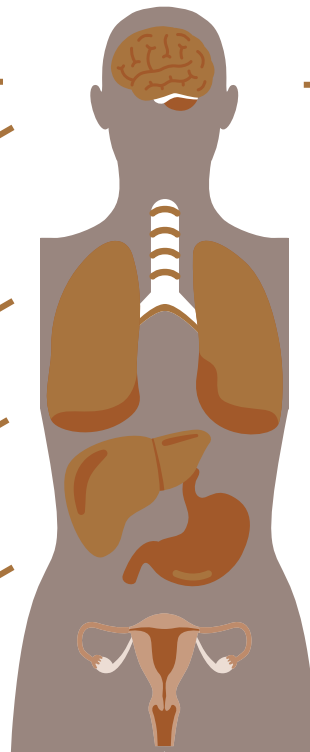
Call 1-800-CUT-SMOG or visit South Coast AQMD website to report odors, smoke, dust, or other air contaminants



# What are the health effects of EtO?

## Short Term

- Headache
- Slows down neurological functions
- Irritation of eyes, skin, nose, throat, lungs
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea



## Long Term

- Damage to brain and nervous system
- Lung disease
- Associated with increase risk in breast cancer, stomach cancer, blood cancer, leukemia, and lymphoma
- Reproductive harm

## Understanding Concentrations of EtO

Parts Per Billion by Volume	At this concentration of EtO:
0.01 ppbV	For every 10,000 people in a community exposed to EtO levels at this concentration for their whole life, one person develops cancer from EtO
16 ppbV	CalEPA's estimate for minimum level where there is no health effect for lifetime exposure
17.5 ppbV	If Vernon facility goes over this concentration they have to restrict operations to adhere with South Coast AQDM requirements starting September 2022
21.5 ppbV	Average concentration in sterilization facility in Vernon between April-July 2022
81.8 ppbV	Average elevated levels in a sterilization facility in Carson during July 2022
430,000 ppbV	People can smell EtO as a sweet odor