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Doug Brugge

Particles in the Air

The Deadliest Pollutant is One You Breathe Every Day

- Illustrates real-life case examples involving particulate matter air pollution and its health impacts
- Details the dangers and potential sources of toxins affecting everyday life that are seldom talked about
- Aims the subject matter at a popular audience to convey the overarching issues caused by dangerous air toxins

The book covers the three largest sources of particulate matter pollution in five chapters. These sources constitute three of the top ten public health problems in the world today and far outstrip any other environmental health threats in terms of health impact. The book begins with indoor solid fuel combustion for cooking in lower income countries and tells the story of how this problem was identified and recent efforts to eliminate it. The book next looks at tobacco smoking and second hand smoke, again reviewing the history of how these problems were identified scientifically and the fierce industry push back against the science. The last two chapters cover ambient particulate matter in the outdoor air. They address fine and ultrafine particles, describing the pioneering work on fine PM, the subsequent industry attacks on the scientists and then the emerging interest and concern about ultrafine particles, an area of research in which the author has participated. This book is geared towards non-scientists, including high school and college students.

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