

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2006 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number

S0612

Project Title

Can You Smell the Cancer? A Study of Ozone, Carbon Monoxide, and Nitrogen Oxide Levels in a Parking Garage

Objectives/Goals

Abstract

This project is about determining the quality of air in partially enclosed parking garages and whether it is poor enough to cause health problems such as cancer.

Methods/Materials

To test for nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide I used a combustion analyzer. The units of measurement were parts per million (ppm).

Results

After testing the air I discovered that there were very low levels of nitrogen oxides throughout the day. Further research showed that nitrogen oxides react with the oxygen in the air (O2) to form ozone (O3). Then I tested the air for ozone, using Schoenbein paper.

Conclusions/Discussion

The results of this experiment showed that at least eight hours of exposure to the air in a partially enclosed parking garage would be detrimental to one#s health. Also exposure of only a few minutes a day or a few minutes a week would eventually cause health problems.

Summary Statement

This project is about determining the quality of air in partially enclosed parking garages and whether it is poor enough to cause health problems such as cancer.

Help Received

Victoria Acquistapace, M. Ed.; Anthony Tan, my dad, who helped with everything; Maria Knorr, my girlfriend, who helped with the testing; Isabelle Tan, my mom, who helped with the photos and production