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**Chemical
Insights**

An Institute of Underwriters Laboratories Inc.

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Foresight

*Highlighting Chemical Insights' Research and Education
for Safer Environments and Healthier People*

Our Featured Initiatives

Indoor Air Quality



Naphthalene – A Common Air Pollutant

The common air pollutant, naphthalene, is a polycyclic aromatic volatile organic compound (VOC) often found in the indoor and outdoor air. Naphthalene can be found in emissions from numerous consumer products and building materials such as paints and coatings, plastic and carpet flooring systems, adhesives, air fresheners, disinfectants, and insecticides. Indoor exposures to naphthalene are often noted by odor and lead to respiratory irritation, headache, and nausea. Read more in our latest technical brief, "[Naphthalene – A Common Air Pollutant.](#)"

Working for a Safer World



UL Research Institutes

In February 2022, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. [shared news](#) of a landmark financial commitment to grow the scale and scope of its safety science research as well as its standards development and engagement work. As part of this expansion, we also announced the launch of a new, second nonprofit organization to advance standards development and public advocacy. These two nonprofit organizations are known as UL Research Institutes (branded blue) and UL Standards & Engagement (branded green).

UL Research Institutes includes all of our individual research institutes: Chemical Insights Research Institute (CIRI); Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI); Electrochemical Safety Research Institute (ESRI); and Digital Intelligence Safety Research Institute (DISRI). Our mission, and the mission of each of our individual research institutes, remains the same and is shared across the two organizations and the UL enterprise. As part of UL Research Institutes, CIRI will continue to forge ahead with its independent scientific research and outreach to help create a safer, healthier tomorrow for people and the planet.

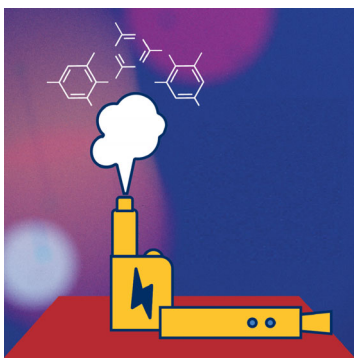
Wildfires



DIY Box Fan Air Cleaner Application Notes

Smoke from wildfires has been directly linked to poor air quality that can lead to significant health effects and costs to society, even in communities far downwind, making it critical for public health professionals to have access to actionable information to protect the communities that they serve. To assist with this issue, CIRI published, [“Strategies to Protect Air Quality During Wildfires.”](#) This application note presents evidence-based, actionable considerations to help public health professionals make informed indoor air quality decisions during wildfire smoke events and provides instructions on how to construct and safely use DIY air cleaners (furnace air filters attached to electric box fans) during wildfire smoke events. It was developed from the comprehensive, UL 200A Guidance Document, [“Use of Do-It-Yourself Filtration Devices During Wildfires.”](#) that CIRI and the Standards and Engagement organization of Underwriters Laboratories published this spring.

E-Cigarettes and Vaping



Insights to Understand Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems

With the large amount of conflicting information about electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS [i.e., e-cigarettes and vapes]), it is important to understand how these devices work, potential risks to human health, and usage trends. CIRI developed the technical brief, [“Understanding Vaping or Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems \(ENDS\),”](#) for readers to gain actionable insights about ENDS and their risks to human health. We remain dedicated to researching this rapidly changing technology, to understand potential human health hazards, especially in vulnerable populations.

Furniture Flammability



CIRI Presents Furniture Flammability and Human Health Research to Fire and Safety Experts

CIRI and UL Built Environment jointly presented, “Balancing Human Health and Fire Safety in the Built Environment,” at the annual National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Conference. The NFPA is a nonprofit that aims to help save lives and reduce property and economic loss from fire, electrical and related hazards. The audience learned about CIRI’s research on the human health risks of flame retardants used in residential furniture and how the use of an upholstered furniture fire barrier could eliminate the need for flame retardants while providing flammability protection. Thank you to everyone who attended. Visit our [Furniture Flammability and Human Health webpage](#) for more information including published research, a guidance document, and educational materials for interior designers.

Resiliency



CIRI Provides Actionable Information About Resiliency and Healthy Interiors

CIRI virtually delivered innovative information on resiliency and strategies for healthy interiors during NeoCon, a key conference for the commercial design industry. The presentation, [“Design It Healthy, Keep it Healthy,”](#) detailed strategies to support resilient, healthy interiors including information on how external factors can affect interior conditions, and how to specify better materials and employ healthier practices. Stay tuned for more research and presentations about resiliency in the built environment.

Partnerships



CIRI Joins the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association

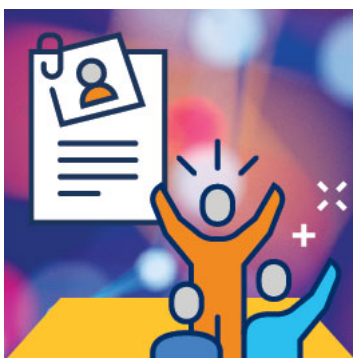
CIRI was recently accepted to become a member of the [Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association](#), which brings craftsmen, innovators, and problem solvers together who are dedicated to building and enriching communities. This also grants us memberships with the Home Builders Association of Georgia and the National Association of Home Builders. We are excited to collaborate with and provide research-backed information to leaders in the building and furnishing fields to make better environmental health decisions.

CIRI Happenings



Welcome Andy Goodell

Andy Goodell joined CIRI as a senior communications coordinator to work with our research and education teams to help story-tell the science, conduct media outreach, develop digital assets, and support upcoming conferences and research initiatives. Previously, Andy created scientific, narrative-based marketing and media collateral for governmental and higher education institutions. He received a bachelor's degree in mass communications from Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. Andy is most excited about being able to use his broad communications skill set to help make a safer world for everyone.



Join Our Team

CIRI is recruiting key science talent to join our team! Our organization is dedicated to scientific discovery research, education, and communication of environmental exposures and steps for reducing human risks. We are seeking driven, results-oriented, and passionate people who want to contribute to safe working, living, and learning environments.

- [Director of Global Air Quality Research](#)

Recent Publications and Events



Publications:

1. Technical Brief, [“Naphthalene – A Common Air Pollutant”](#)
2. Application Notes, [“Strategies to Protect Air Quality During Wildfires”](#)
3. Technical Brief, [“Understanding Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems”](#)
4. NeoCon 2022 Presentation (Virtual), [“Design It Healthy, Keep it Healthy”](#)

Visit us to hear about our research at conferences:

1. [CSHEMA Annual Conference](#), July 8-13, 2022, Presentation: “Investigating and Mitigating the Health Impacts of 3D Printer Emissions” and exhibitor booth
2. [AIA Conference on Architecture 2022](#) (virtual), July 28, 2022, “Resiliency, Urban Wildfires and Materials”
3. [Ron Blank GreenCE Academy](#), September 20, 2022, “Resiliency, Urban Wildfires and Materials”
4. [2022 IFMA World Workplace](#), September 28-30, 2022, “Chemistry 101 for Building Managers”



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