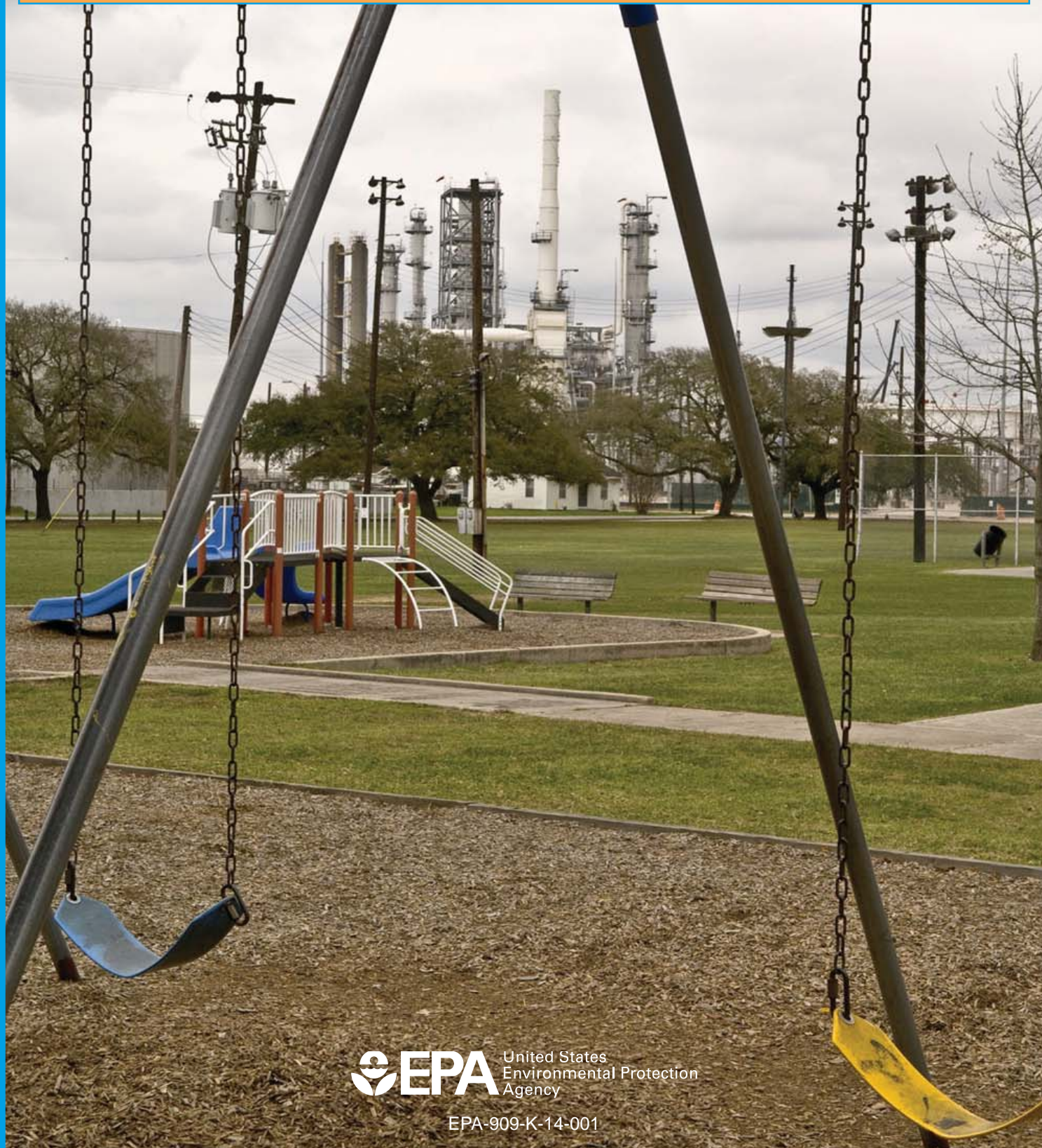


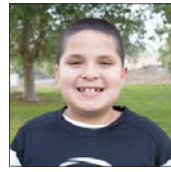
EPA'S TOXICS RELEASE INVENTORY (TRI): THE DIAZ FAMILY LEARNS THAT THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW ABOUT TOXIC CHEMICALS IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD



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!





It's called a smokestack, son. Smoke, steam, or even toxic chemicals can come out of smokestacks and go up into the air.



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



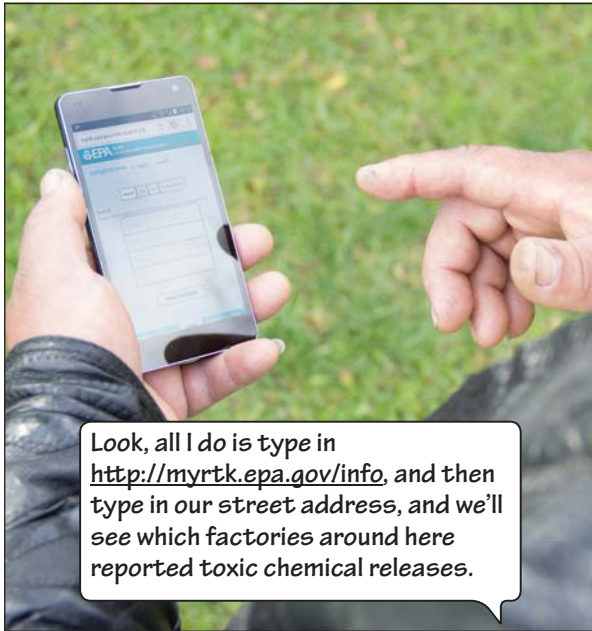
Yes, because this soccer field is so close to it, and I worry about the kids.



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.







Look, all I do is type in <http://myrtek.epa.gov/info>, and then type in our street address, and we'll see which factories around here reported toxic chemical releases.



Wow! It shows 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 to the air and 450 pounds of another chemical into the water.



But there are lots of environmental laws that factories must follow to control their toxic chemical releases and to protect the environment.



It shows here on my smartphone what EPA is doing to make sure that factories are following the law. Even if a factory is doing what the law says it has to do, that doesn't mean that we shouldn't ask questions. We can work with our neighbors to encourage factories like that one to do more to protect the environment.



Why does the factory use all those chemicals in the first place?



Factories use chemicals to make cars, refrigerators, computers, and other things that we use every day.



Is there someone at the factory I can ask about this?

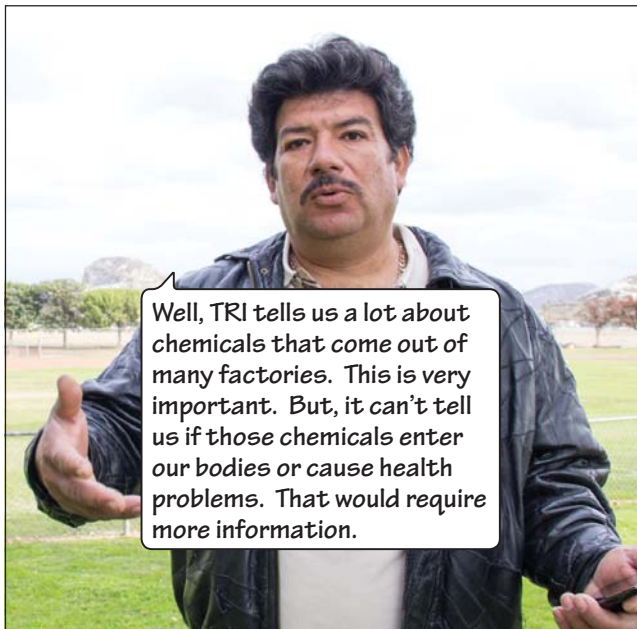
Yes. You can look up the name and phone number of the person at the factory who can answer your questions at myrtrk.epa.gov/info.



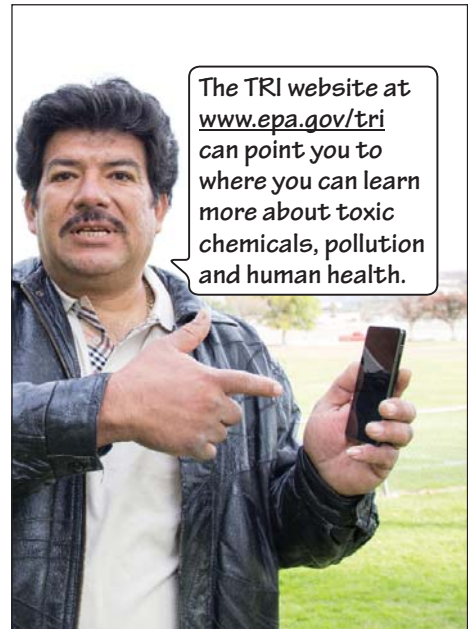
Miguel, won't those chemicals make the kids sick?



Well, TRI tells us a lot about chemicals that come out of many factories. This is very important. But, it can't tell us if those chemicals enter our bodies or cause health problems. That would require more information.



The TRI website at www.epa.gov/tri can point you to where you can learn more about toxic chemicals, pollution and human health.

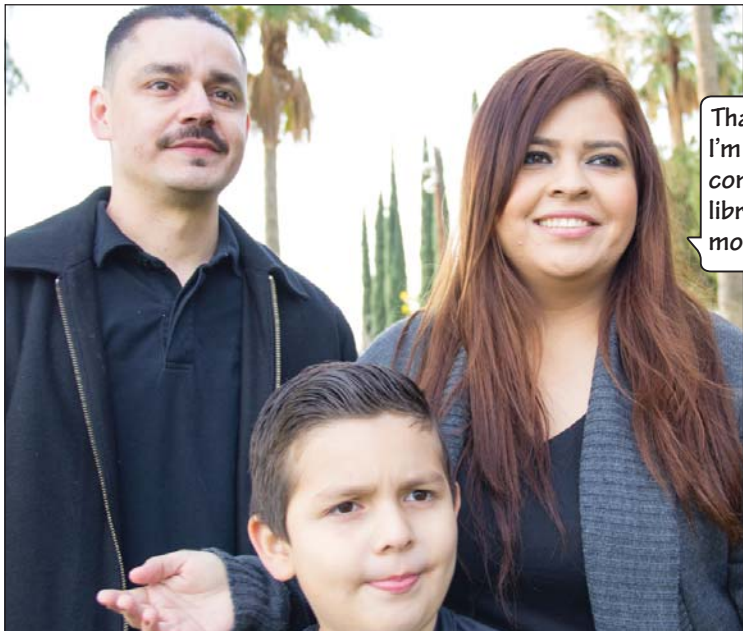


How come I don't see anything about all the smelly trucks passing by here when I look up TRI information?



TRI doesn't cover all types of pollution.

You won't find information in TRI, for example, 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.

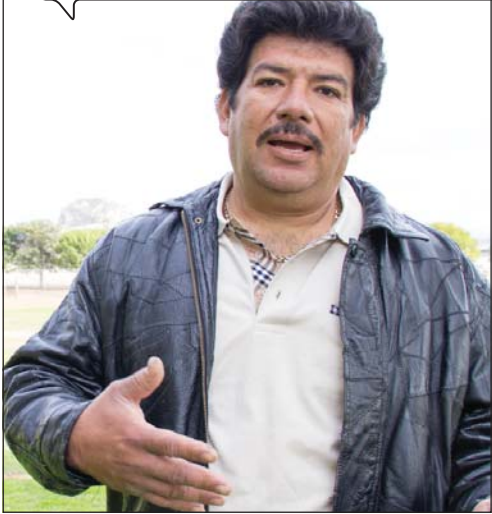


Thanks, Miguel. I'm going to use a computer at the library to learn more about this.



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 any of these resources:

Call the TRI Information Center: 800-424-9346 (Select menu option #3)

Website for general TRI information: www.epa.gov/tri and website for TRI information for communities: www.epa.gov/tri/communities

Contact your EPA REGIONAL TRI COORDINATOR: www.epa.gov/tri/regionalcoordinators

Email the TRI HELP DESK: tri.help@epa.gov

Use this link to report what appears to you as a possible violation of environmental laws and regulations: www.epa.gov/enforcement/complaints