

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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SOCIAL IMPACTS OF GAS FRACKING

- **Disrupts the Social Fabric of Communities:** Divides neighborhoods, and even families in conflict over signing lease agreements, damage to property values, contamination and disturbance from noise and lights
- **Damages Roads and Increases Accidents:** Heavy increase in traffic and accidents from trucks and machinery, chemicals spills, damage to roads and associated costs, and endangers local civilian traffic
- **Distress to First Responders and Medical Personal:** Emergency personnel are put in harm's way due to strict confidentiality laws around trade secrets. Access to critical information is restricted to first responders, firefighters, EMTs and doctors, who must make critical decisions and can face criminal charges for disclosing chemicals with their patients and even other professionals.



In heavily fracked Pennsylvania counties:

- Truck crashes increased 9 %
- Disorderly conduct arrests increased by 1/3 compared to counties that did not frack
- average annual number of cases of sexually transmitted infections increased by 32%

<http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/>

Photo courtesy of the Union of Concerned Scientists <http://blog.ucsus.org/>

- **Influx of Out-of-State Industry Workers:** Large predominantly male crews who are without their families, living in hotels and frequenting restaurants and bars, lead to increase in crime rate, drunk driving accidents, drug use, violence, sexual misconduct and STD's.
- **Disrupts Quality of Life:** Boomtown activity brings air and water pollution, loss of wildlife habitat, and disturbance of noise and lights from flaring, fracking, traffic and pipeline construction 24 hours a day.
- **Direct Impact on Counties:** Findings based on a ten-year case study of rural counties in Pennsylvania illustrate social disorders caused by fracking boomtown activities. For more information, see the "The Social Costs of Fracking: A Pennsylvania Case Study" by the Food and Water Watch. <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/reports/the-social-costs-of-fracking/>

**You have a right to clean safe streams, rivers, groundwater, soil and air!
Organize your group with help from BREDL! www.BREDL.org**