

# San Antonio suburbs angry over possible air regulations

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Outlying areas may be unfairly punished if San Antonio has failed to pollute its air quality, officials in Comal, Guadalupe and Wilson counties are complaining.

Leaders of the counties adjacent to San Antonio said they generate pollution, but they will suffer any sanctions imposed on San Antonio for bad air.

This pollution thing ought to affect the creator of the pollution, Comal County Commissioner Moe Schwab told the San Antonio Press-News. "We didn't create it. San Antonio did. And we are going to pay through the nose for it."

San Antonio officials blame the area and the Gulf Coast petrochemical industry for their dirty readings.

Wilson County Judge Marvin

Quinney said he has written to the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission and will contact lawmakers to try to remove outlying areas from the boundaries.

**"We didn't create [the pollution], San Antonio did. And we are going to pay through the nose for it"**

— Moe Schwab  
Comal County commissioner

The three outlying counties are part of the San Antonio Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

If San Antonio is declared a dirty-air city next year, as expected, the Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA) will likely impose uniform air pollution control measures throughout the entire MSA.

That means residents of Seguin, New Braunfels, and other communities also will face regulatory measures designed to reduce pollution.

That makes sense, Shelley Whitworth, deputy director of the Alamo Area Council of Governments, said.

She said suburban growth in those counties attracts commuters who fill San Antonio highways with vehicles every morning and evening, contributing to the overall pollution picture.

"The EPA looks at where the emissions come from," Whitworth said. "We don't have a lot of industry, so most of our emissions come from the roads. That is the source we have to control."

# 6 killed in holiday weekend wrecks

HOUSTON (AP) — An illegal turn turned into a trip to jail for 17-year-old Philip Paras, as Harris County Sheriff's deputies conducted a "zero-tolerance" crackdown over the weekend in a part of the county known as drag racing.

The teen-ager's mom said he was caught driving in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"He knows what goes on in that area, but he was doing any of that," Millette Paras said. "He just did an illegal turn, and they took him to jail."

As of yesterday afternoon, at least 26 people had died in 22 crashes since 6 p.m. Friday. That compares to 29 deaths in the same span last year. The Texas Department of Public Safety said just one of those crashes was being blamed on alcohol and three on wet

roads, but it adds that investigations of many of the accidents remained in their early stages.

The DPS estimated that 39 people would die in traffic this holiday period. The forecast is down from the 45 deaths recorded in 41 accidents during the 78-hour Labor Day holiday period last year.

Harris County deputies carted 27 people away for overnight jail stays Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

The Harris County violations include tail-light violations, playing music too loud and improper lane changes. The zero tolerance enforcement was directed at all violators, "especially the ones with high-performance vehicles," according to a statement from the department.

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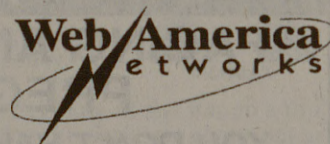
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