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Harvard funded study by [Francesca Dominici](#), a professor of biostatistics at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, who led the study. "Our air is contaminated."

He concluded, About 12,000 lives could be saved each year, their analysis concludes, by cutting the level of [fine particulate matter](#) nationwide by just 1 microgram per cubic meter of air below current standards.

Think about the health of the residents in the wake of the dust plume from the Off Highway Vehicle Park.

The dust is often 50 to 100 micrograms higher than the California state standard.

We know the dust contains crystalline silica, a listed carcinogen.

A year ago in her letter, Mary Jean Sage, Health Commission Chair of San Luis Obispo County, urged the San Luis Obispo APCD to act to reduce the "significant on-going health risks" of the Off Highway Vehicle Park. The APCD did nothing

The educated and knowledgeable people of Nipomo in the wake of the dust plume having been asking the government to protect them from the contaminated and detrimental air for eight years to no avail.

Do the educated and knowledgeable leaders of our community including the hearing board members have an ethical and moral responsibility to protect our less educated and uninformed residents? Who protects the farm hands, the ranch hands, the utility workers, the field workers and the children from the detrimental air? Are we not our brother's keepers?

Ed Harris