

Health Alert!
(Dihydrogen Monoxide)

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Some people insist that if you can't pronounce an ingredient then you shouldn't eat it. While that proposition is a bit too militant for me (in addition to being rather problematic for five-year-olds and the illiterate), I have to admit that my indifference to food additives has been challenged by something called DHM that recently came to my attention. I am concerned.

DHM — short for Dihydrogen Monoxide — is a compound now found in every country on earth, a polysyllabic substance that is present to some degree in everything we eat or drink, and often in significant quantities, though many alcoholic beverages seem to have less of it than other typical drinks and juices. From what I understand, DHM regularly gets into our clothes when we wash them, so it transfers onto our bodies that way as well, though human skin is pretty good at keeping it from entering the bloodstream through such incidental contact. Dry cleaning offsets the problem, but of course that process involves plenty of other scary chemicals to worry about.

Personally, I am convinced that this issue is under-reported and under-appreciated, as the lakes and rivers of northern coastal states like Washington and Maine are so full of Dihydrogen Monoxide that sometimes it can even be seen in the air with the naked eye. States like California and Arizona tend to have less loose DHM in the environment, but it's still a serious concern in all states, with decades of statistics showing that this compound is directly responsible for up to 8,000 deaths per year, many of them among children under 12. While that number is, thankfully, trending downward, the direct deaths remain just a small fraction of the loss and injury that Dihydrogen Monoxide is known to contribute to annually, even playing a role in a surprisingly large number of vehicle accidents.

The most common effects of DHM inhalation include severe coughing and persistent burning in the lungs following even minor or partial aspiration, but it has even been known to cause concussion-like neurological symptoms in children and adults who have direct bodily contact with

~~It is also known to cause severe respiratory distress and is a major component of acid rain.~~

its much rarer solid form. The disturbing reality is, Dihydrogen Monoxide isn't new and its effects are not unknown to either scientists or politicians, yet commercial industries continue exposing us to enormous quantities with very little regulation by lawmakers, and almost no one ever mentions it. They do this because liberal use of Dihydrogen Monoxide is profitable, and companies will always claim, when they are cornered, that DTM "is what consumers want". So, if you care about what goes into your body, into your children's bodies, then I urge you to do your own research on this widely ignored and generally unregulated substance that affects every ~~family~~ ^{Family} in the country today. Educate yourselves — and your friends and neighbors too — then contact your congressmen and other representatives, business CEO's, and any other influential people who may be putting corporate profits over public safety. Ask them what they are doing to protect all of us, themselves included, from the known dangers of Dihydrogen Monoxide.

Remember, "Dihydrogen" plus "Monoxide" means that in every single molecule of DTM, two atoms of hydrogen combine to overwhelm each individual atom of life-giving oxygen, and although most of us are not professional chemists or biologists, this is the kind of scientific knowledge that all concerned citizens surely need to learn and understand. Tell me what you think, and if you discover any other important facts about this compound that I haven't already mentioned, please do post them here as a comment. Thank you, and God bless.

You can write me directly!

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