

May 16, 2023
Hillsboro City Council Meeting Comments

I'm Jim Lubischer, retired pediatrician.

The air near airports using leaded fuel is polluted with lead.
Children living near airports have higher levels of lead in their blood.
There is no safe blood lead level in a child.

Lead damages the brain causing lower IQ's, speech difficulties, ADHD, risk of failing to complete high school, behavioral problems, pregnancy and aggression as a teen, criminal behavior as a young adult, reduced grey matter in regions of the brain known to govern executive judgment, impulsivity and mood regulation.

The map submitted shows 2 red circles around the airport. The outermost circle shows the 1500-meter (0.93 mile) distance from HIO boundaries. Studies have shown that lead levels are higher even within 2000 meters, the closer to the airport the higher. There are a number of schools, parks, daycares, and lots of homes within 1 mile of the airport.

In February Fox 12 News reported that the Port of Portland said "It does want to remove leaded fuel from aircraft used at the Hillsboro Airport." And "*it has a fuel tank ready for unleaded fuel as soon as it goes on the market.*"

An unleaded fuel, which can be used in all piston driven aircraft and put in all storage tanks has been approved by the FAA and is now being sent to several airports in California by GAMI, the developer of the fuel .

(General Aviation Modifications, Inc <https://gami.com/contact/contact.php>)

Yesterday I talked with a GAMI representative (John Paul) who said that while this fuel is not per se "*on the market*", the Port of Portland should send an email (troehl@gami.com) to Tim Roehl at GAMI and request Hillsboro Airport be put on their list to receive this unleaded fuel ASAP. He noted that they are prioritizing west coast airports, including Oregon, with flight training companies.

I implore the Council tonight to pass a resolution recommending the City send a letter to GAMI requesting Hillsboro Airport be put on their list to receive this fuel ASAP. I have submitted a suggested letter for the Council to consider.

I also implore Council to pass a resolution tonight that the City send a letter which asks the Port to also contact GAMI and request this fuel ASAP. (The Port should emphasize that HIO has several flight training schools, that in 2017 was the 8th highest lead emitting airport in the nation, and that it has a tank ready to be used.)

Wouldn't it be nice, if come October's *National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week*, the City could notify our residents that the City Council has taken steps that stopped the use of leaded fuel at our airport, or at a minimum that the City Council was instrumental in getting the *Port of Portland* to contact the unleaded fuel company so that HIO has been put high on the list of airports to receive the unleaded fuel ASAP.

Thank you.