Lead

What is it?
Lead (Pb) is a solid metal that can be found in the air in a dust-like form called particulate matter.

Where can it be found?
Lead can be found in many difference places including:
• Leaded gas (which is no longer sold in the U.S.)
• Paint found in old houses and on some cars
• Smelters – which are used in metal refineries
• The manufacturing process of lead storage batteries
• Contaminated soil and dust

What are the health effects of lead?
• Brain and other nervous system damage, especially in children
• Digestive problems
• Reproductive system damage
• Kidney damage
• Learning disabilities in children

What are the environmental effects of lead?
• Can be harmful to wildlife
• Contaminated soil can damage plants

What can you do to protect yourself from lead poisoning?
• Don’t disturb, handle, or eat paint chips.
• Wash your hands immediately after touching or handling dirt and never eat dirt.

For more information, visit:
http://www.dhec.sc.gov/environment/baq/AirPollutionSources/healtheffectsofairpollution.asp