



# Sterigenics Lawsuit Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is Ethylene Oxide (EtO)?**

At Sterigenics, EtO was used for the sterilization of medical equipment. EtO is also used as a chemical in the manufacture of antifreeze.

- **What medical issues does the exposure of EtO cause?**

There is evidence which is recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency that inhalation exposure to EtO can cause lymphatic cancers, leukemia and breast cancer. There is also evidence that exposure to EtO can cause uterine cancer, lung cancer and brain cancer. The Environmental Protection Agency has concluded that EtO is a carcinogen to humans via the inhalation route of exposure. Evidence has also shown that EtO can cause an increased rate of miscarriages and other developmental and reproductive impairments. Evidence has further shown that EtO exposure can cause mutation and chromosomal damage that can lead to potential birth defects.

- **How long has it been known that EtO is dangerous?**

EtO has been studied and recognized as a potentially dangerous carcinogen for several decades. Lately, much more has been learned about the dangers of EtO. In 1977, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health recommended that EtO be considered as a potential carcinogen to humans. Less than a decade later, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services identified EtO as “reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.” Less than two decades ago, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services revised its classification for EtO and identified it as “known to be a human carcinogen.” Within the last five years, the Environmental Protection Agency’s Integrated Risk Information System increased the cancer potency of EtO by 30 times. [Read more about the dangers of EtO here.](#)

- **How much EtO is in the air?**

We know that Sterigenics has been emitting EtO from its Willowbrook facilities consistently since 1984. There are two buildings with combined 19 gas chambers which emit thousands of pounds of EtO into the air of Willowbrook and the surrounding suburbs. Sterigenics runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, which means EtO is being emitted into the air continuously, putting Willowbrook in the top 99.9% in terms of cancer risk in the country.

- **Have lawsuits been filed against Sterigenics?**

Our firm has currently filed lawsuits in Cook County, where we believe the residents have a profound interest in their public health and well-being. There are other lawsuits that have been filed in DuPage County.



## Sterigenics Lawsuit Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

- **When your office has filed a lawsuit, who did you file against?**

We have sued various Sterigenics entities along with individuals who we believe were responsible for assuring safe emission levels. We are currently investigating the role and responsibility of other individuals and other companies.

- **What are your goals with the lawsuit?**

First and foremost, our goal is to shut the facility down or stop the emissions of EtO into the air. We are also hoping to force Sterigenics from working in this community and poisoning local residents. Currently, Sterigenics operates facilities in 13 different countries. Finally, we are hoping to obtain compensation for those that have been injured or who have lost loved ones by Sterigenics emissions.

*If you believe that you or a loved one has suffered cancer, fertility issues, or other health issues related to ethylene oxide emissions from the Sterigenics International plant in Willowbrook, call or email attorney Jeff Kroll at (312) 372-1227 or [jkroll@salvilaw.com](mailto:jkroll@salvilaw.com) today to discuss your potential case.*

*Our Sterigenics team is also representing clients who have incurred diminished property value as a result of these toxic emissions, contact our office today to learn more about your legal rights.*