

My family and I live, work, and go to school in downtown portland. Our child attends The Cottonwood School of Civics and Science by the ICE building on Macadam--we are highly concerned about the amount of tear gas and munitions blanketing the school play ground night after night by federal officers who do not seem at all concerned about the school of blocks and blocks of apartments with people living inside. I work across from the federal building and we live blocks from it. This summer I could not open our windows at night for fear of being tear gassed. We had to put on noise machines and podcasts all night long, so our child would not be woken up by what sounded like bombs going off but were actually police setting off different sound devices. We could not go on walks with our dog in our normal areas due to tear gas residue blanketing plants, streets, trees etc. One evening while wearing a mask, I took a walk around 6pm (where tear gas had been sprayed the evening before) in the city parks across from the justice center and had a horrible reaction to whatever was still in the air: my lungs felt like they were on fire for about 20 minutes and for an entire week afterward my nose and throat were inflamed and VERY painful--This was just from taking a walk in my own neighborhood. While at work, Federal officers came in to patron our business and they hadn't changed out of their uniforms they wore while spraying protesters with tear gas just hours before. The residue from their uniforms left clouds of teargas as they walked by and caused me to go into a huge coughing fit and It was hard to get away from the tear gas it as it was also looming very close to were I work. This is not how people should have to live their lives on top of dealing with a pandemic. The mental toll this took on my family and myself is long lasting and has caused me some PTSD.