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CREATION OF OZONE HOLE AND ITS EFFECTS

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Due to human activity two types of compounds have been found to be responsible for depleting the Ozone layer and creating a hole into it. These are NO and CFC's. NO is present in the exhaust gases of vehicles. CFC's are widely used in refrigerants in air conditioners and refrigerators. Both of these are capable of generating free radicals which destroy Ozone layer. It has been found that one molecule of CFC can destroy more than one thousand O3 molecules. Due to development of Ozone layer the ultra violet radiations coming from sun pass through the stratosphere and reach the surface of the earth. With increase in exposure to ultraviolet radiations the chances for occurrence of skin cancer increases. Exposure to ultraviolet radiations damages the cornea and lens of the eye and may cause cataract or even blindness. In plants harmful mutations and reduction of chlorophyll may take place. Ozone depletion has very harmful effect on climate. Ozone layer absorbs the UV radiations and heats up the stratosphere setting up a temperature gradient from _56oC to _2oC as the altitude increases from 11 to 50 km. Depletion of Ozone layer will upset the heat balance of the earth. Ozone depletion if not controlled, would cause ecological disturbances, which would adversely affect man and animals.