



EPA Tests Residences Near Former Lead Facility to Make Sure Families Are Protected

Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

Community Update No. 1

Fall 2018

WHY IS LEAD A PROBLEM?

Lead is a toxic metal that was used for many years in paint and leaded gasoline. It is also used in many industrial operations, and historically these operations did not stop the lead from escaping into the environment. Lead poisoning can cause a number of harmful health effects, particularly in children under the age of six.

Exposure to lead in soil can occur when children play in the dirt and put their hands or dusty toys in their mouths. Lead can also get into your body by breathing or swallowing lead dust, and by eating soil or paint containing lead.

If you have general questions or would like additional information regarding the site, please contact one of the following:

Joel Petty
On-Scene Coordinator
732-321-4388
Petty.Joel@epa.gov

Pat Seppi
Community Involvement Coordinator
646.369.0068
Seppi.Pat@epa.gov

For information on other environmental concerns or the federal Superfund program, contact:

George Zachos
EPA Regional Public Liaison
(732) 321-6621
Toll Free: (888) 283-7626
Zachos.George@epa.gov

WHY IS EPA SAMPLING SOIL IN MY COMMUNITY?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is investigating potential lead contamination in soil which may be associated with the former L.H. Mitchell site. The L.H. Mitchell facility, which was located at 216 Klagg Avenue in Trenton, NJ, operated as a solder manufacturer from the 1950s through the 1980s. The property is currently used for auto repair. EPA is conducting an investigation to determine if lead from the former soldering operation has contaminated soil on nearby properties.

WHERE WILL EPA SAMPLE?

EPA will sample soil at about 20 residential properties located within 1,000 feet of the site, concentrating in areas downwind of the historic soldering facility. Soil samples will be collected from unpaved areas of the properties where people could be exposed to contaminated soil. Samples will be analyzed for metals, including lead. The sampling is scheduled for fall 2018.

We encourage all property owners who are contacted by EPA to provide access to their property and to participate in the sampling, which is performed at no cost to the owner.

HOW WILL I GET MY RESULTS?

EPA will provide and explain the sampling results to the owners of each property once they are received from the lab and processed. This usually takes about three months. In the meantime, EPA is available to the community to answer any questions.

EPA INVESTIGATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

EPA has been evaluating sites where lead soldering, smelting or processing operations were historically located to determine if hazardous substances may have been released into the nearby environment. The investigation is a multi-step process. First, EPA conducts soil sampling to determine if there is a problem with lead or other metal contamination. The results take approximately three months to be processed by the lab. Then EPA determines if there is any soil contamination that presents a health risk, and whether or not it is associated with the historic facility. Finally, if it is determined that the historic facility has caused contamination, EPA may take action, such as a soil clean up, if it is necessary.

If EPA finds an issue with lead in a your soil that is related to the former L. H. Mitchell facility, EPA will address it and there will be no cost to the residential property owner associated with EPA's sampling and cleanup.

SIMPLE STEPS TO REDUCE YOUR LEAD EXPOSURE

The following steps are recommended to reduce your potential exposure to lead contamination that may be present in urban soil.

- Remove shoes at the door before entering your home to prevent tracking in any dirt that may be on your shoes. Clean the bottom of your shoes with a wet wipe or paper towel.
- Wash your hands and face after coming in from outside and before eating and drinking.
- If you are a smoker, wash your hands before smoking.

QUESTIONS ABOUT LEAD AND LEAD EXPOSURE

For more information about getting your child tested for lead in NJ, visit:

<http://www.state.nj.us/health/childhoodlead/testing.shtml>.

Or contact the Trenton Division of Health at: 609-989-3242

The National Lead Information Center provides the general public and professionals with information about lead, lead hazards, and their prevention. **Contact the National Lead Information Center by phone to receive a general information packet, to order other documents, or for detailed information or questions. You can call and speak with a specialist Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern time (except federal holidays) at 1 (800) 424-LEAD [5323].**

For additional information on lead: <https://www.epa.gov/lead>



In May 2017, EPA established a task force to restore the Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency's core mission to protect health and the environment.

[epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force](https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force)