



FACT SHEET

Removal Action for the B & T Metals Superfund Site Gering, Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska December 2019

REGION 7: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Nine Tribal Nations

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has initiated a removal action at the B & T Metals Superfund Site in Gering, Nebraska. EPA, in coordination with the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, is working to eliminate the threat to human health and the environment that has been identified as lead-contaminated surface soils across the site.

BACKGROUND

B & T Metals is a former scrap yard located at 1855 3rd Street in Gering. The site was operated as a scrap yard for at least 60 years and included a battery recycling operation for at least 28 years. Operations at the site ceased in 2015.

Sampling data showed that shallow soils across the site are contaminated with levels of lead that significantly exceed the EPA-established removal management level for residential soil.

ABOUT THE CONTAMINATION

Concentrations of lead in soil across the site exceed EPA health-based risk standards for residential soil.

Lead is a toxic metal that is harmful if inhaled or swallowed. Children are more sensitive to lead than adults and can develop lifelong learning disabilities and behavioral problems from lead exposure. Children can get lead from soil into their bodies by putting their hands or toys in their mouths after touching the soil. Pregnant

women and nursing mothers should also avoid exposure to lead to protect their children. Lead poisoning can cause negative health effects in infants and young children including, but not limited to:

- Slowed physical growth
- Hearing problems
- Nervous system damage
- Learning disabilities
- Hyperactivity and other behavioral problems
- Decreased intelligence

Lead exposure and its effects can be reduced by the following actions:

- Washing hands after playing outside and before meals
- Eating a diet high in calcium and iron
- Regularly cleaning floors, window sills, and other surfaces
- Washing children's hands, bottles, pacifiers, and toys often
- Removing shoes or wiping soil off shoes before entering your house

Children 7 years old and younger are most likely to get lead poisoning. It is important that children in this age range be tested every year, because lead-poisoned children do not always look or act sick. You can call your local health department or physician to get your child tested.

Additional information regarding specific health effects from lead can be found online at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> and at the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry website: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/substances/toxsubstance.asp?toxid=22>.

SITE INFORMATION

For information about the B & T Metals Superfund Site, please visit the following website:
<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0710213>

EPA CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact:

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