



FACT SHEET

REMOVAL ACTION UPDATE

LEAD TESTING AND CLEANUP OVERVIEW

Viburnum Trend Lead Haul Roads – City of Viburnum OU2 Superfund Site
Crawford, Iron and Washington Counties, Missouri – February 2021

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

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 has conducted testing (sampling) for lead contamination at 119 residential properties and child high-use areas within the Viburnum Trend Lead Haul Roads – City of Viburnum Operable Unit 2 (OU2) Superfund Site (site). The results of that sampling indicate that 101 of those properties qualify for cleanup.

BACKGROUND

The site is located in northwestern Iron County, with smaller portions within Crawford and Washington counties, in southeastern Missouri. It is part of what is commonly known as the New Lead Belt mining district, or Viburnum Trend, where lead production began around 1960. The Doe Run Resources Corporation – Viburnum Division (formerly St. Joe Minerals Corp. – Viburnum) is located in and near the city of Viburnum. The Viburnum Division includes four mines where ore was brought to the surface. (See link to fact sheet and site map online at: www.epa.gov/mo/missouri-cleanups.) During construction, development, and early operation of these mines, it was not uncommon for lead-contaminated materials, such as tailings and/or poor rock, to be used for construction materials in the building of Viburnum, which was done by the St. Joe Minerals Corp. to support mining operations. As a result of mining-related activities that have occurred in and around the city, lead and lead compounds have been released into the environment in quantities that present a risk to public health and welfare.

EPA identified Doe Run Resources Corporation, or Doe Run, as the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) for the lead contamination found at this site. Beginning in 2005, EPA and Doe Run entered into an agreement for Doe Run to begin cleaning up lead-contaminated residential properties in Viburnum. Lead is the main contaminant of concern at this site, which was likely distributed throughout the city during decades of mining, milling and transporting of lead ores and concentrates.

SITE UPDATE

EPA has determined that it is necessary to conduct a time-critical removal for residential properties and child high-use areas where: 1) lead concentrations in soils exceeded 1,200 parts per million (ppm), or 2) lead concentrations in soils were less than 1,200 ppm but greater than 400 ppm with a sensitive population present (e.g., child under 6 years old).

EPA is continuing to negotiate with the PRP about plans to clean up the remaining residential properties and child high-use areas with lead concentrations of less than 1,200 ppm and greater than 400 ppm in soils (without a sensitive population present).

HOW WILL EPA CLEAN UP OR SAMPLE MY RESIDENTIAL YARD?

This proposed cleanup work and sampling will be conducted at **no cost to property owners**. If your residential property qualifies for this time-critical removal, an EPA representative will contact you to discuss the sample results and proposed cleanup activities for your property. The time-critical removal action will proceed as follows:

- EPA anticipates it will begin conducting this action for qualifying properties in **April 2021**.
- Steps will include excavation, treatment and disposal of lead-contaminated soil; backfilling the excavated area to original grade with clean topsoil or gravel; and restoring a grass lawn at residential properties.
- Sampling of residential yards will continue until EPA's investigation is complete.
- EPA will update the local community when additional information becomes available.

ABOUT LEAD AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Lead is a toxic metal that is harmful if inhaled or swallowed. Lead is classified by EPA as a probable human carcinogen and is a cumulative toxicant that affects multiple body systems. **Lead exposure can pose serious health risks, particularly for children 6 years old and younger; as well as pregnant women and nursing mothers, who should also avoid exposure to**

protect their children. Lead is dangerous to children because their growing bodies absorb more lead than adults do, and their brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead. Lead exposure can cause a range of adverse health effects, including behavioral disorders, learning disabilities, and seizures, putting young children at the greatest risk because their brains and nervous systems are still developing.

ANNUAL BLOOD LEAD TESTING

The only way to know if your child has elevated blood lead levels is to have his or her blood tested. Talk to your pediatrician, general physician, or local health department about testing your child.

For more information on blood testing for children, you can contact:

Iron County Health Department
606 W. Russell St.
Ironton, MO 63650
Phone: 573-546-7121

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

An Information Repository and Administrative Records for this site are available online at:

www.epa.gov/superfund/vtlhrou2

Additional site information is available online at:

<https://response.epa.gov/vtlhrou2>

For more information about lead, visit:

- www.epa.gov/lead
- www.epa.gov/lead/learn-about-lead
- www.epa.gov/superfund/lead-superfund-sites
- www.epa.gov/lead/fight-lead-poisoning-healthy-diet
- www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-lead-your-home
- www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead
- <https://www.cdc.gov/TSP/ToxFAQs/ToxFAQsDetails.aspx?faqid=93&toxid=22>

EPA CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions or site information, contact:

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