



EMERGENCY REMOVAL

# Former Squannacook Sportsmans Club Removal Site Groton, MA

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND

## THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND REMOVAL PROGRAM

responds to chemical, biological and radiological releases and large-scale national emergencies, including homeland security incidents. EPA conducts short term cleanups in the removal program when necessary to protect human health and the environment by either funding response actions directly or overseeing and enforcing actions conducted by potentially responsible parties.



## SITE DESCRIPTION

The Former Squannacook Sportsmans Club Site (the site) is located at 159 West Main Street, Groton, MA. The property was used in part as a shooting range from 1959 until October 2002. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) did an environmental investigation and found lead and arsenic contamination present in surface soil at the former shooting range, Groton Senior Center, and on a neighboring residential property.

## JUNE 2023 SITE STATUS

Work restarted in April, 2023 after pausing for the winter. Over the spring and summer months the following work will take place:

- removing low lying vegetation and/or trees as necessary
- excavating contaminated soil
- backfilling excavated areas
- transporting and disposing contaminated soil
- restoring the site at the end of the job

EPA expects all work to be complete by end of 2023.

## BACKGROUND

The Town of Groton did an assessment in 2021 of the Former Squannacook Sportsman Club property and found an increased presence of lead in surface soil. The Massachusetts Department of

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### EPA TOLL-FREE CUSTOMER SERVICE

1-888-EPA-7341

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continued >>



## EMERGENCY REMOVAL

Environmental Protection (MassDEP) confirmed lead in soil above state standards and referred the site to EPA.

In August and September of 2021, EPA collected soil samples, surface water samples, and groundwater samples from the former shooting range, the Groton Senior Center, and adjacent residential properties. Sampling results found lead and arsenic in soil samples above the EPA Removal Management Levels for residential properties. EPA determined that an imminent hazard to public health and the environment is present at the site. To address the imminent hazard, EPA is currently conducting a removal action to address the threat presented by the contamination.

To protect the public from accessing contaminated soil, the area where work is happening is fenced off, air monitoring is performed during working hours with dust suppression measures implemented, as needed, contaminated soil awaiting disposal is covered at the end of the working day, and the site is locked. EPA has also taken the following steps to protect the local wildlife: creating a turtle protection plan that includes installation of a silt fence to keep turtles out, daily checks for wildlife, and ensuring all gates are closed at the end of the workday.



A foot of contaminated soil was excavated from the site. Once excavation is complete a nonpermeable sheet will be installed and clean topsoil will be placed on top.



Silt Fence installed on site to keep turtles from entering the work zone. The silt fences are working, as a turtle's nest was found next to the fencing.



Contaminated soil waiting to be trucked off site for proper disposal.