



April  
2024

## Highway 24 Mill Site

### Colorado Springs, CO



### Cleanup at the Highway 24 Mill Site

The Highway 24 Mill Site (site) is located in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and includes the A-1 Mobile Home Village located on Garner Street and the neighborhoods surrounding the historic Golden Cycle Mill and tailings pile.

Due to the proximity of residences to a tailings pile and historic milling activities, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been investigating heavy metals contamination in soils since 2022. Now, the EPA is partnering with the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) to clean up the soils at the site.



*Soil sampling at the Highway 24 Mill Site*

### The Story of Investigation & Cleanup at the Highway 24 Mill Site

#### 2022

EPA's Removal Program conducts sampling at the A-1 Mobile Home Village, finding elevated levels of **lead** and **arsenic** in soils. At this time, the levels were below residential screening levels, requiring no cleanup. Follow-up letters and tips for reducing exposure were sent to residents. More investigation was needed to determine the extent of contamination.

#### 2023 - 2024

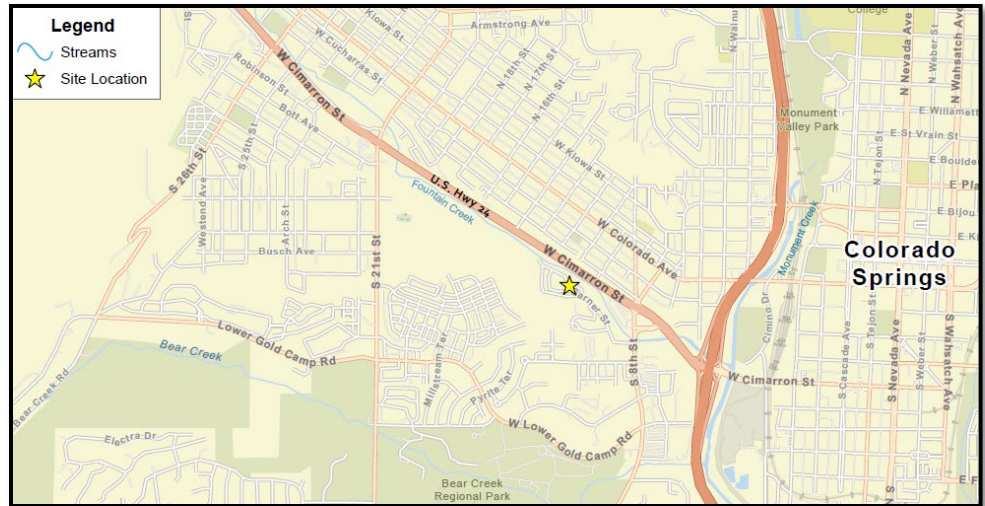
EPA's Site Assessment Program conducts Site Inspection sampling in the neighborhoods surrounding the historic mill and tailings to determine the extent of contamination. The Site Inspection report is currently being finalized and will be made publicly available when completed.

#### 2024

In January 2024, EPA updated its guidance on lead in residential soils, lowering the screening level. Cleanup of residential soils at the A-1 Mobile Village is now necessary to protect human health. EPA is funding CDPHE to clean up soils at the A-1 Mobile Home Village. Cleanup will begin in 2024.

## Highway 24 Mill Site Background

The A-1 Mobile Village was constructed adjacent to a tailings pile produced by the Golden Cycle Mill in the early 1900s. The tailings pile encompassed approximately 170 acres and consisted of tailings produced by the milling of ore primarily from the Cripple Creek Mining District in Colorado. Prior to being covered with clean soil and developed into a residential neighborhood, some of the tailings migrated onto the A-1 Mobile Home Village and potentially into the surrounding neighborhoods, from both windblown dust and smokestack emissions. The tailings contain heavy metals, with lead and arsenic being of concern to human health. Learn more about lead and arsenic below.



Highway 24 Mill Site Location

## About Lead and Arsenic

Both lead and arsenic are Contaminants of Concern (COCs) at the site because they present a risk to human health. Lead and arsenic are both naturally occurring, but can be harmful to humans, especially children. For more information about reducing exposure, visit:

[www.epa.gov/lead/actions-reduce-potential-lead-exposure](https://www.epa.gov/lead/actions-reduce-potential-lead-exposure).

For more information on these two COCs, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has a series of summaries about contaminants, called ToxFAQs. You can find ToxFAQs on lead at [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs).



### Upcoming Work in Your Neighborhood

*At the Highway 24 Mill Site, previous sampling has identified lead levels exceeding the new lower screening level (200 parts per million).*

*CDPHE will begin soil cleanup activities in 2024.*

## EPA Updated its Residential Soil Guidance – What does this mean?

On January 17, 2024, EPA announced updates to guidance for lead in residential soil at CERCLA (also known as Superfund) sites and other facilities.

EPA is lowering recommended screening levels and strengthening guidance for investigating and cleaning up lead-contaminated soil in residential areas where children live and play. For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/lead>

## Questions? Contact us!

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