

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT THE WAMPUS MILFORD SITE

This fact sheet was written to give you information about cleanup of contamination at the Wampus Lane property in Milford. The CT Department of Public Health and the Milford Health Department are working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide you with information about the contamination and the cleanup activities that will begin soon. For more information, please contact us at the numbers provided on page 3.



BACKGROUND

The Wampus Milford Site is a 24-acre parcel located at 80 Wampus Lane, in Milford, CT (See map on p. 4). The Site was formerly owned and operated by the Burndy Corporation. Operations included manufacture of rubber and plastic molding, operation of power presses, screw machining, degreasing, plating, wastewater treatment, and assembly. Site contaminants include metals, PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) and petroleum hydrocarbons. EPA is working with the City of Milford and the CT Department of Environmental Protection to clean up contamination in soil in a man-made earthen drainage swale (ditch). The swale is about 210 feet long and likely received waste from the manufacturing activities at the site.

WHAT CONTAMINANTS WERE FOUND AT THE SITE? WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS?

Four main chemicals were found at the site:

Lead exposure can harm the nervous system, particularly in children. Lead can cause children to be born prematurely and have lower birth weights. Lead can also affect a child's mental and physical growth. Exposure to high levels of lead can affect the brain and kidneys of adults and children. Lead has not been shown to cause cancer in people.

Beryllium can be harmful to your lungs if you breathe it in high levels. Swallowing beryllium does not harm people because it is not well absorbed from the stomach and intestines. Beryllium that comes into contact with cut or scraped skin can cause skin rashes. Long term exposure can increase the risk of developing lung cancer.

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are a group of over 100 different chemicals that are formed when coal, oil and gas, garbage, or other organic materials like tobacco or charbroiled meat are burned. In animals, PAHs can affect the skin, blood, immune system and the ability to reproduce. These effects have not been reported in people. Some people who had long-term exposures to high levels of PAHs developed skin and lung cancer. Some PAHs cause cancer in animals.

Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) are types of chemicals that are found in oil, and products made from oil, like gasoline. At high exposure levels, these chemicals can harm the blood, nervous and immune systems, lungs, skin and eyes.

HOW COULD I GET EXPOSED TO THE CHEMICALS IN THE SOIL IN THE DRAINAGE DITCH?

In order to be exposed, you need to have direct contact with the contaminated soil in the swale by touching the soil, breathing soil dust, or eating the soil (putting items into your mouth that have soil on them such as fingers or food). Repeated contact with the contaminated soil could result in possible health effects. *However, we do not think that anyone in the area has come into contact with the contamination.* During cleanup of the drainage swale, contaminated soil will be dug up and transported off-site for disposal. These activities may create a greater possibility for exposure. This is why there will be many controls in place to prevent community members from becoming exposed to the contaminated soil.

UNDERSTANDING EXPOSURES TO CHEMICALS

Any chemical that enters your body can be harmful if you take in too much. Whether your health will be affected by a chemical that gets into your body depends on several factors.

- How much of the substance you take in.
- How long you are exposed to it.
- How it enters the body (for example, through eating, drinking, breathing, or touching).
- Your age, general health and other individual traits that determine how susceptible you are to health effects.
- Other exposures you have to the same or similar substances.
- How toxic the substance is.

WHAT TYPES OF CLEAN-UP ACTIVITIES WILL OCCUR AT THE SITE? WHEN WILL THEY START?

Work will begin in mid-September to prepare the site for cleanup. Cleanup workers will do the following.

- Install fencing and warning signs around the perimeter of the work area.
- Clear some vegetation and grade access routes to make room for site activities.
- Conduct de-watering in the swale to prepare the area for excavation.

Additional actions that cleanup workers will conduct include the following.

- Excavating and consolidating contaminated surface soils.
- Sampling to ensure that cleanup goals are met.
- Disposing of waste materials off-site at EPA-approved facilities.
- Restoring woods and wetland areas disturbed by cleanup activities.



HOW WILL THE NEIGHBORHOOD BE PROTECTED DURING THE CLEAN-UP?

- Air monitoring, dust suppression, and erosion control measures will be conducted to ensure that cleanup activities do not impact the air quality in the vicinity of the work area.
- On-site workers will be wearing personal protective gear while conducting cleanup activities, including white suits, gloves, and boots. This level of protection is required by federal law, for cleanup workers who may be in direct, repeated contact with contaminated materials.
- Access to the work area will be restricted and measures will be taken to ensure that contaminated materials are not tracked or allowed to migrate beyond the work area.
- A traffic control plan will be implemented to minimize the impact to the community from work-related truck traffic, including limiting heavy vehicles before 8:00 a.m. and after 2:00 p.m., to avoid school buses and heavy commuter traffic, and routing trucks away from the center of town.
- The public will be restricted from the area during remediation. In addition, the Milford Police Department will be closely monitoring the area to prevent trespassing.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

State Health Department

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DPH Web Site:

<http://www.dph.state.ct.us>

Milford Health Department

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health@ci.milford.ct.us

Milford HD Web Site:

<http://www.ci.milford.ct.us/health.html>

EPA

Melanie Morash, On-site Coordinator

(888) 372-7341, ext 81298

Jeanethe Falvey, Community Relations

(888) 372-7341, ext 81020

EPA Web Site:

www.epaosc.net/WampusMilford

Please do your part to help out during the cleanup.

Please obey the warning signs and do not let children enter the work area.

Please call the site contacts if you have any questions or concerns about the project.

MAP OF THE WAMPUS MILFORD SITE

