

# BATCHELDER SITE, NEWTOWN

This fact sheet was developed by the CT Department of Public Health (CTDPH) and the Newtown Health District to alert area citizens about the serious danger of trespassing on Batchelder Site, and to provide information on efforts to clean up the site. Information for this fact sheet came from a health investigation conducted by the CTDPH and from information on clean-up plans from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For a copy of the CTDPH investigation report, call (860) 509-7742.

The Charles Batchelder Company Site is an abandoned aluminum smelting facility located at 40 Swamp Road in the Botsford section of Newtown. Smelting operations were conducted at the site from 1947 to 1987. Scrap metals from many sources were melted down to recover aluminum. Waste piles of metal dust (aluminum, cadmium, lead, zinc and other metals) were left at the site.

## **HAZARDS AT BATCHELDER**

The site has many serious physical and chemical hazards that are dangerous to anyone who goes on the site.

### ***Physical Hazards***

- Many drums, tanks and other debris that are dangerous to people who trespass on the site;

Several open pits containing sharp objects. Some are filled with water and unknown chemicals.

- There is a real threat that one of the site buildings could collapse.
- An abandoned gas pump and tank may pose an explosion hazard.
- At this time, there is no fence to prevent access to the site.

### **MAIN POINTS:**

- **Trespassing on the Batchelder Site is very dangerous.**
- **Parents should keep their children off the site.**
- **The extent of off-site contamination is not known but is being investigated.**
- **Federal, State and Local Agencies are working to clean up the site.**

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## **CHEMICAL HAZARDS:**

- There are several waste piles containing metal dust inside and outside the building. The metal dust can be inhaled and may cause short and long-term health problems.
- One of the waste piles contains high levels of lead which can cause increases in blood lead levels..
- There is a pile of tiles that contain asbestos, a carcinogen.
- Part of the site is contaminated with PCBs, a potential carcinogen.



## **SHORT TERM SITE CLEAN-UP PLANS:**

The EPA has recently received approval to take several immediate actions to prevent access to Batchelder and to clean up the most dangerous chemical waste on the site. They include:

- ⇒ putting up a fence around the whole site to prevent trespassing;
- ⇒ removal of the waste pile containing lead;
- ⇒ collection of the waste piles inside the main building containing metal dust and covering them;  
and
- ⇒ environmental sampling of all drums and containers.

## **CT DPH LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Determine if there are any underground gasoline storage tanks and if so, sample and analyze the contacts.
- Continue monitoring private wells near the Batchelder site for site-related contaminants. Determine if site-related contamination is found in areas beyond the site.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Newtown Health District	(203) 270-4291
CT Department of Public Health:	(860) 509-7742
U.S. EPA, Region I (Boston, MA):	(617) 573-9626
CT Department of Environmental Protection:	(860) 424-3705