

UPDATE ON FORMER PROCTOR/SILEX PLINY ST SITE

A clean-up plan (Remedial Action Plan) has recently been prepared for this site. There are plans to build housing, a daycare center, possibly gardens on the site. The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide information on health concerns people may have about the chemicals found at the site, the clean-up plan and the safety of the site's future use (daycare, housing and gardens).

BACKGROUND

The site was used for manufacturing since the early 1900s. The earliest factory made military equipment and woolen slippers. Later, the Proctor-Silex Company made coffee percolators. After that, a company made plastic household products. The site was then used as an auto repair shop, a storage center for used tires and a bottle redemption center. The buildings were abandoned for many years and then were torn down in 2000. When the buildings were torn down, chromium, a toxic metal, was brought to the surface of the soil. The chromium was found to be at unsafe levels. A cover of soil and plastic was put down right away to prevent people from coming in contact with the chromium. In 2001, contaminated soil from this area was removed and disposed off-site. Over the next few years, more sampling of the soil and groundwater was done to find out more about the contaminants on the site.



WHAT CHEMICALS WERE FOUND AT THE SITE? CAN THEY MAKE PEOPLE SICK?

There were 3 main chemicals found at the site:

Chromium is a natural element that is found in 3 forms: chromium (0), chromium(III) and chromium(VI). Chromium VI (hexavalent chromium) is more toxic than the other forms. It was found at the site in soil and groundwater. It is used in making steel and other metals, and for chrome plating. Breathing very high levels in air can irritate your nose, lungs, stomach, and intestines. Getting high levels of chromium on your skin may cause swelling, redness and may lead to skin ulcers. **It is unlikely people on or near the site were exposed to levels that would cause these problems.**

TCE (Trichloroethylene) is a colorless liquid used mainly as a solvent to remove grease from metal parts. TCE was found in some of the soil and groundwater on the site. Exposure to high levels of TCE over many years can increase your risk of cancer and damage the liver, kidney, immune system and nervous system. **People in the neighborhood have not been exposed to levels high enough to cause health effects. Also, people did not drink water with TCE because they are on city water.**

Petroleum Hydrocarbons 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. It is **very unlikely** that people near the site have been exposed to high enough levels to cause health problems.

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 (eating, drinking, breathing, or touching);
- Your age, general health and other factors that determine how at risk you are to health effects;
- Other exposures you have to the same or similar substances; and
- How toxic the substance is.

HOW WILL THE SITE BE CLEANED UP?

- The rest of the building foundations will be dug up and taken away off-site.
- Contaminated soil down to 4 feet will be dug up and removed.
- A trench will be dug along Pliny St. to help monitor the groundwater quality.
- Steps will be taken to protect the neighborhood while the digging occurs. They include:
 - Soil wetting or covering to reduce blowing dust
 - Air testing to make sure there isn't much dust in the air.
 - Cleaning contaminated soil from the outside of the trucks before they leave the site.
 - Keeping people off the site.



If you have questions about these steps, or think some of them are not being followed, call one of the contacts below.

WILL THE SITE BE SAFE ENOUGH FOR THE DAYCARE CENTER, HOUSING AND GARDENS?

Yes, it will. The site will be cleaned up to standards that protect children and residents. Contamination in the top 4 feet of soil will be removed. Some contamination may remain deeper than 4 feet. This is not a problem because people won't be digging deeper than 4 feet. You cannot get exposed to the soil contaminants unless you come into contact with it. This is because the contaminants will not be able to come to the surface. The playground areas will also be covered by wood chips. Any gardening will be done in clean soil. New buildings will have a venting system to keep any soil vapors from entering the building. CT DEP, along with the state health department, will make sure the clean-up is done to these standards.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For Health Questions, Call:

**Meg Harvey, CT DPH
509-7742**

**Hartford Health Department
543-8800**

For Clean-up Questions, Call:

**Maurice Hamel, CTDEP
424-3787**

For Questions or Complaints About the Digging, Call:

**George Gurney, SECOR
860-249-7034**

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