

Health Information on Hazardous Waste Sites

LAUREL PARK, INC.

The Laurel Park, Inc. landfill site is one of fifteen Superfund hazardous waste sites in Connecticut. The Connecticut Department of Public Health and Addiction Services, in cooperation with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, is investigating the possibility that contamination at this site might result in adverse human health effects in the neighboring community. The document containing this assessment is referred to as a public health assessment and has been produced from data provided by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other groups involved with the management of this site; community health data; and concerns of the community. If you have specific concerns about the health implications of this site, please write or call Kenny Foscoe or Edith Pestana at the Connecticut Department of Public Health and Addiction Services, Division of Environmental Epidemiology and Occupational Health, 150 Washington Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, (203) 566-8167. For more information about clean-up activities, please contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the address and phone number on page 4 of this factsheet.

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**SITE SUMMARY**

The Laurel Park Landfill is in Naugatuck, Connecticut, New Haven County, one mile west of the Naugatuck River and Connecticut Route 8. The landfill is on the north and west slope of Huntington Hill and occupies about 19 acres of a 35 acre site (See site map).

**History**

The site was in operation from 1949 to 1987. In the late 1980's the landfill accepted approximately 200 tons per day of municipal and industrial wastes. These include rubber products, tires, chemicals, oils, solvents, chemical solids and municipal wastes.



The landfill was known to have operational problems. Fires on the site and spills on the roads leading to the landfill were common according to local residents. In addition, local residents reported seeing leachate flowing into an unnamed creek along Andrews Avenue. In the early 1980's, residential wells in the vicinity of Laurel Park were found to have contaminants believed to be site related. In 1983, the site was placed on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). At that time, bottled water was provided to local residences and a leachate system was constructed, but not hooked up. The landfill was closed in 1987. In 1989 the leachate system collection system was hooked up. The next year, 1990, most of the residences were connected to the municipal water system. A public health assessment document on the site has been released for public comment, and will be finalized in 1993.

### **CONTAMINATION**

The landfill burned industrial wastes such as solvent sludges and rubber products, but there is no air monitoring data available to assess potential exposures. Groundwater and soil, both on and off-site, have been contaminated with volatile organic chemicals and heavy metals. Historically, leachate runoff contaminated

surface water with a variety of compounds including acetone, benzene and chromium. Some private wells in the vicinity of the landfill were found to have trace amounts of contaminants believed to be site related. These contaminants include benzene, tetrachloroethylene, and methylene chloride. Most of the private wells in the area were closed and the residents were connected to the public water system.

### **HEALTH CONCERNS**

- Past exposures may have occurred from drinking contaminated ground water present in private wells. Because sampling did not consistently find contaminants in the wells, we do not know if and for how long neighboring residents were exposed to the contaminants.
- Residents with contaminated private wells were exposed to contaminants by breathing indoor air during showering or bathing. However, it is unlikely that adverse health effects could occur given the levels measured.
- Nearby residents may have been exposed to smoke and fumes from the burning of industrial and municipal wastes. Residents and landfill workers may have also received inhalation

exposure from the transport and spilling of waste chemicals along Hunters Mountain Road.

■ Residents may have received exposures through breathing and skin contact from contaminated leachate in a local stream (along Andrews Ave and Scott Street).

### What You Should Know

\* ATSDR has concluded that this site is an indeterminant public health hazard. Past exposures may have occurred mainly through inhaling contaminants that were released from the open burning of waste and uncontrolled fires. However, because there is no data available on these releases, it is not possible to evaluate adverse health effects. Specifically, we do not know which substances were released in the smoke, and the levels to which people may have been exposed.

\* Area residents should not enter the site to prevent potential exposures to site contaminants.

\* Homes not connected to the public water supply should have their wells sampled to make sure they are not contaminated.

### SITE ACTIVITY STATUS AND PLANS

CT DPHAS will investigate the three remaining private wells in the area to ensure that they are not impacted by contaminants migrating from the site.

The landfill will be capped in accordance with the Record of Decision, overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The CT DPHAS will conduct environmental health education programs for local public health officials, the local medical community and local residents.

The EPA and the site property owners will maintain fencing around the site to prevent access.

### INFORMATION SOURCES

**HEALTH:** If you have health concerns related to the site, please contact your physician. Explain your situation and to what you may have been exposed. Area physicians and nurses have or will be provided information about the site contaminants and their potential health effects. Your physician may contact the

Naugatuck Valley Health  
District or the Connecticut  
Department of Public Health and  
Addiction Services with any  
questions.

Naugatuck Valley Health  
District  
470 Howe St  
Shelton, CT 06484  
924-9548

State of Connecticut  
Department of Public Health  
and Addiction Services  
Environmental Epidemiology and  
Occupational Health Section  
150 Washington St.  
Hartford, CT 06106  
566-8167

Agency for Toxic Substances and  
Disease Registry  
Region 1  
60 Westview St.  
Lexington, MA 02173  
(617) 860-4619

**WATER QUALITY:** If you have  
concerns about the quality of  
water around the Laurel Park,  
Inc. site, contact the Naugatuck  
Valley Health District or the  
Department of Environmental  
Protection, Bureau of Water  
Management.

CT Dept. of Environmental  
Protection  
Bureau of Water Management  
Groundwater Section  
165 Capitol Ave  
Hartford, CT 06106  
(203) 566-3654

**PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY:** If you are  
interested in connecting to a  
public water supply, contact the  
Connecticut Water Company.

Connecticut Water Company  
Naugatuck Regional Office  
250 Meadow St  
Naugatuck, CT 06770  
729-8241

**SUPERFUND:** Information  
regarding the federal Superfund  
process may be obtained from:

U.S. Environmental Protection  
Agency  
JFK Federal Building (HEC-CAN6)  
Boston, MA 02203  
(617) 573-9627

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