

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT THE FORMER PHILBRICK-BOOTH FOUNDRY SITE

This fact sheet was written to give you information about cleanup of contamination at the former Philbrick-Booth Foundry Site in Hartford. The CT Department of Public Health and the Hartford Health Department are working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide you with information about the contamination and EPA's cleanup activities that will begin soon. For more information, please contact us at the numbers on the other side of this flyer.



BACKGROUND

The former Philbrick-Booth Foundry Site is located at 367 Homestead Avenue in Hartford. The property has a large abandoned building and several sheds. A metal foundry used to operate at this site.

WHAT CONTAMINANTS WERE FOUND AT THE SITE?

EPA did an environmental investigation. They found several barrels in the building that contain liquids with heavy metals (lead, mercury, arsenic and chromium). They also found that floor sweepings in the building are contaminated with a chemical called polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Inside the building there is asbestos that could get into the air. EPA found a powdery material in the building that has radiation levels higher than normal background. EPA also found heavy metals and PCBs in surface soil on the property.

WHAT CLEAN-UP ACTIVITIES WILL HAPPEN?

EPA already has started to move their equipment onto the property. Actual cleanup work will not begin until the week of March 30. The first thing EPA is doing is securing the property so no trespassers can enter. Starting the week of March 30, EPA will begin removing hazardous materials from the building, digging up contaminated surface soil and getting all the hazardous waste ready for transport and disposal away from the property.

HOW WILL THE COMMUNITY BE KEPT SAFE DURING CLEANUP?

First, EPA will make sure that the property is secure (fencing, at-night security) so only people who are supposed to be on the property can enter. During the cleanup work, EPA will monitor the air to make sure that air quality is safe for the cleanup workers and for the nearby community. They will also follow routine procedures such as soil wetting to keep dust levels low. If contamination is detected in the air, workers will stop work if needed to correct the problem.

WHAT THINGS MIGHT I SEE DURING THE CLEANUP?

Cleanup workers will be wearing protective clothing such as white suits, respirators, hard hats, gloves, and boots. This level of protection is required by law because cleanup workers may come into direct, repeated contact with contaminated materials. You also may see trucks and other vehicles at the property. You may see equipment for monitoring air quality.

HOW LONG WILL THE CLEANUP TAKE?

EPA expects that it will take 9 months to complete all the cleanup activities.

WHAT ARE MY HEALTH RISKS IF I LIVE NEARBY?

First, it is important to understand that in order to be harmed by a chemical, you must come into direct contact with it through touching, eating or breathing. This is called being exposed. If you are not exposed to the chemical, it cannot harm you. We do not believe that anyone in the neighborhood has been exposed to contamination from the former Philbrick-Booth foundry site. During cleanup, EPA will have many controls in place so the nearby community is not exposed and stays safe. The CT Department of Public Health and the Hartford Health Department will be working with EPA to make sure the safety controls are protecting the neighborhood.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CT Department of Public Health:

Meg Harvey
(860) 509-7740
margaret.harvey@ct.gov

DPH Web Site:
<http://www.ct.gov/dph>

Hartford Health Department & Human Services:

Martha Page
860-543-887
PAGEM001@hartford.gov

Health Dept Web site:
http://www.hartford.gov/Human_services/default.htm

EPA:

Jeanethe Falvey
Community Relations
(888) 372-7341, ext 81020
Falvey.Jeanethe@epamail.epa.gov

EPA Web Site:
www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/er/index.htm

**Please do your part to help out during the
cleanup.**

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

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

This fact sheet is funded in part by funds from the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act trust fund through a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.