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Eureka Mills



Eureka City
Juab County, Utah

Eureka Mills:

The mining and milling activities that took place in the area between 1870 and 1965 left high levels of metals in the soil. The former mining sites are along the southern and western boundary of Eureka City, and many are next to residential areas. Interest in the Eureka site began in July 2000, when elevated metal levels were found in residential soil by UDEQ (Utah Department of Environmental Quality).

In 2001, the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and UDEQ cleaned-up approximately 75 residential areas. Since then clean-up activities have continued and will continue until all properties have been addressed. Along with residential properties, clean-up activities have also focused on mine waste piles and ATV trails in Eureka.

The Utah Department of Health and Central Utah Public Health Department began holding free blood lead testings in 2000. Beginning in 2000 thru March 2005, 661 blood lead tests have been performed on Eureka residents. Blood lead levels will continue to be monitored quarterly thru project completion.



What is being done?

- Quarterly blood lead testing
- EPA soil clean-up
- Community education
- HEPA filter vacuum loan program
- EPA home lead testing of paint, water and flooring

Metals found in Eureka:

Arsenic has no special taste or smell.



Arsenic is not used in consumer products. Arsenic does not readily build up in the body. Most arsenic absorbed into the body is passed in the urine. Arsenic is known to cause cancer in high doses and may also cause nausea and irritation of the digestive tract.

Lead can be found in all parts of our



environment, much of it coming from human activities such as mining. Lead can be found in paint, ammunition, solder, and pipes. Lead can build up in the body over time if exposure is continuous. Exposure to lead may damage the nervous system of young children and cause decreased IQ, impaired hand-eye coordination, and shortened attention spans. Lead can affect almost every organ and system in the body.

Not everyone exposed to lead and arsenic will develop health problems. The same health effects can be caused by various other factors, such as age, habits, and nutrition.

Recommendations:

Due to high levels of arsenic and lead found in Eureka it is recommended that:

- All children, ages 6 months to 17 years, and pregnant women have their blood lead levels tested **at least once a year**.
- Residents reduce contact with contaminated soil and dust by washing hands often, eating foods high in iron and calcium, and keeping homes free from soil and dust.
- Residents consider having their basement soil removed or placing a dust barrier over the soil.
- Residents wait to plant their garden until property has been completely cleaned-up.
- Residents **always** wash and peel fruits and vegetables thoroughly before eating.
- Children and pregnant women limit time spent on ATV's, dune buggies, dirt bikes, and other off-road vehicles, until contaminated soil has been removed or replaced.

Did You Know?

The natural behaviors of children (i.e., mouthing of hands and toys) makes them more likely to be exposed to soil and dust contamination than adults.