

# EUREKA MILLS



## FINAL PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT IS NOW AVAILABLE

This fact sheet gives highlights of the Utah Department of Health's Public Health Assessment (PHA) on the Eureka Mills Site. If you would like a copy of the full PHA report, contact the UDOH, Environmental Epidemiology Program, contact information is located on the back of this summary.

## EUREKA: PAST & PRESENT

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 levels of **arsenic and lead** 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, EEP (Environmental Epidemiology Program) and CUPHD (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.

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## HOW TO REDUCE EXPOSURE:

- Wash hands often.
- Eat foods high in iron and calcium.
- Keep homes free from dust (**wet** dust and mop).
- Keep homes free from soil (remove shoes to go indoors).
- Remove or cover basement soil.
- Wait to plant garden until property has been completely cleaned-up.
- **Always** wash and peel fruits and vegetables thoroughly before eating.
- Children and pregnant women should limit time spent on ATV's, dune buggies, dirt bikes, and other off-road vehicles, until contaminated soil has been removed or replaced.

# PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION PLAN:

- EEP, in coordination with CUPHD, will continue to provide **free blood lead testing** for children under the age of 18 and pregnant women living in Eureka City.
- EEP and CUPHD will continue **follow-up activities** for children with elevated blood lead levels by placing phone calls to parents or guardians, providing educational materials, and sending letters and invitations to upcoming blood lead testing sessions. In the future, EEP will conduct one-on-one meetings with the parents or guardians of children with elevated blood lead levels in which they will discuss the child's health, blood lead test results, and steps that can be taken to decrease the child's blood lead level. EEP will also create a binder for parents or guardians of children with EBLLs that will include the child's blood lead testing history and all available educational pamphlets on blood lead poisoning prevention.
- EEP has provided and will continue to provide Eureka residents with **educational materials**, such as pamphlets, calendars, growth charts, videos, cassette tapes, brochures and/or fliers, directed at reducing potential exposure to lead.
- EEP will propose to the residents with contaminated basement soil to consider placing a **dust barrier** (tarp, concrete) to eliminate potential exposures, primarily to children.
- EEP will propose that residents **cease gardening until property has been completely remediated**. If residents choose to garden, then the EEP recommends that fruits and vegetables be thoroughly washed or peeled before eating.
- EEP will continue to provide **educational activities to elementary students** on the hazards of lead exposure, methods of prevention, and the importance of blood lead testing. In 2001, EEP gave four presentations to school aged children in Eureka and provided information to teachers so that a lead poisoning prevention curriculum could be implemented at the schools.



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