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## Contamination at Davenport & Flagstaff Smelters

*Public Health  
Information*

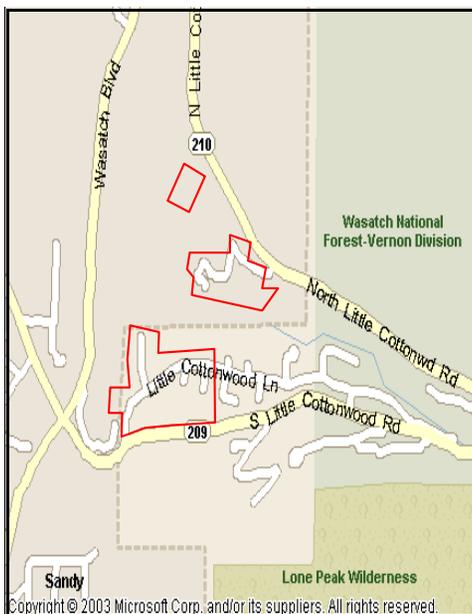
Arsenic & Lead

## Davenport & Flagstaff Smelter Site

The Davenport and Flagstaff Smelter Site is located approximately 15 miles southeast of Salt Lake City, near Sandy City, in Salt Lake County, Utah.

At least three smelters operated at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon near Sandy City, in the late 1800s: the Davenport Smelter, the McKay and Revolution Silver Mining Smelter, and the Flagstaff Smelter. Smelting processes released lead, arsenic, and other metals into the environment in the form of dust and flue ash.

A residential neighborhood now occupies the site. The area contains at least 43 single-family homes and one private school. This information, coupled with 2000 census data, gives an estimated 87 adults and 43 children living onsite.



 = Contaminated Areas

### What is contaminating the area ?

Arsenic and lead in the environment occur from both natural and man-made sources. The main source of contamination for the Flagstaff/Davenport site is man-made associated with former smelting activities.

#### What is Arsenic?

Arsenic is a naturally occurring element widely distributed in the earth's crust. **As** does not readily accumulate in the body. Arsenic has no special taste or smell. Arsenic is not used in consumer products. Arsenic is a known carcinogen.

#### What is Lead?

Lead occurs naturally in the environment. Lead can accumulate in the body over time if exposure is continuous. Lead can be found in paints, ammunition, ceramic products, etc. Once in the body lead can affect almost every organ and system.

#### Routes of Exposure:

- Soil Ingestion: swallowing contaminated soil or dust through hand to mouth contact.
- Dust Inhalation: breathing air inside or outside the home containing contaminated dust.

#### Conclusions/Recommendations:

- High levels of arsenic and lead in the soil at the Davenport and Flagstaff Smelters site poses the likelihood that **exposure has occurred, and continues to occur**, for residents living on or near the site. Of particular concern is the potential for long-term developmental health effects of lead exposure on children who live in the area.

- Have children ages six months to 17 years and pregnant women living near the smelter site tested for high levels of lead and arsenic. Contact your local health care provider or Salt Lake Valley health department.

### How can I reduce my exposure to Arsenic & Lead?

- Wash hands frequently especially before eating, handling food or smoking.
- Avoid hand-to-mouth activities.
- Eat foods high in iron & calcium.
- Wash and peel all home grown fruits and vegetables.
- Replace contaminated soil in flowerbeds and garden areas with fresh top soil or compost whenever possible.
- Keep outside toys and furniture well maintained and clean.
- Maintain a good lawn or groundcover to prevent the potential of contact with bare soil.
- Dust and vacuum inside your home regularly (Dust using a damp cloth).
- Change A/C and furnace filters regularly.

