



What You Can Expect from ATSDR

Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry

About ATSDR

ATSDR is the principal federal public health agency involved with hazardous waste issues. The agency's mission is to serve the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions, and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and disease related to toxic substances. An agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ATSDR was created by the Superfund law in 1980. That law started a program to find and clean up the most dangerous hazardous waste sites. Formally organized in 1985, ATSDR is responsible for carrying out the health-related parts of the Superfund law and of other laws that protect the public from hazardous wastes and environmental spills of hazardous substances. It is responsible for determining, as best as possible, whether people have harmful health effects from their exposure to hazardous substances.

If you would like additional information, contact the ATSDR Community Involvement Team:

Call: 1-888-42-ATSDR (toll-free) that is,
1-888-422-8737

E-mail: atsdr-cib@cdc.gov

Visit: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>

Write: Community Involvement Team

Division of Health Assessment and Consultation, ATSDR

Mail Stop E-32

1600 Clifton Road, NE

Atlanta, GA 30333

What Will ATSDR Do in our Community?

- Involve communities and tribes when responding to their environmental public health concerns.
- Be independent, be objective, and make public health decisions based on current available science.
- Review and assess environmental, health, and community information and data.
- Contact the relevant federal, tribal, state, and local health and environmental agencies, and always the communities, while investigating a hazardous waste site or release.
- Collect additional data through exposure investigations, limited and targeted environmental sampling, and health studies to assess health impacts.
- Provide and explain the results of our evaluations, medical consultations, and investigations to communities and tribes.
- Provide environmental health education for health care providers, communities, and tribes.
- Provide emergency response assistance for acute hazardous materials incidents.
- Refer individuals to specialists in environmental medicine for health care followup.
- Incorporate in final ATSDR documents comments received from the public on draft documents.
- Refer public health issues or problems to other federal, tribal, state, or local governmental entities when they do not fall within ATSDR's areas of responsibility.

What Will ATSDR Not Do in Your Community?

- Conduct large-scale site- or release-related environmental sampling. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state environmental agencies are responsible for these sampling activities.
- Enforce regulations. ATSDR is an advisory, nonregulatory public health agency.
- Provide medical treatment and health care services.