

# UPDATED RESIDENTIAL SOIL LEAD GUIDANCE FOR CERCLA SITES



- What action did EPA take and why
- Screening Levels vs Cleanup Levels
- What changed
- Bunker Hill cleanup levels
- What's next

# National Guidance

## Lower Residential Soil Lead Screening Levels

- Applies to lead in soil at residential sites
- Residential includes any areas where children have unrestricted access to lead contaminated soil.
  - Single and multifamily dwellings
  - Apartment complexes
  - Vacant lots in residential areas
  - Schools and daycare facilities
  - Playgrounds and parks
  - Other recreational areas and greenways

## Why did EPA make this change?

- Reducing childhood lead exposure is one of EPA's top priorities
- Current science shows lead exposure is more dangerous to children's health than previously understood

## Screening Levels

- Used to identify areas that may need further study to determine if a cleanup is necessary
- Consistently applied to all contaminated areas being evaluated
- Not a cleanup level

## Cleanup Levels

- The level at which EPA will take action to clean up a contaminated area
- Based on site specific factors such as:
  - Risk factors (exposure pathways and frequency, availability)
  - Community input
  - Existing lead concentration in the area (natural background)
- May change from site to site

# National Guidance

## 1994 screening levels

- 400 parts per million (ppm) lead in soil
- Goal: 5% or less probability of a typical child having a blood lead level greater than 10 micrograms/deciliter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ )

## 2024 screening levels

- 200 ppm lead in soil
- Goal: 5% or less probability of a typical child having a blood lead level greater than 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$
- 100 ppm lead in soil when other lead sources are present (example: soil and lead paint)
- Goal: 5% or less probability of a typical child having a blood lead level greater than 3.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$

# Bunker Hill Cleanup Levels

## Box Residential Soils

- Removal and replacement of yard soils when lead  $\geq 1000$  ppm

## Basin Residential Soils

- Removal and replacement of yard soils when lead  $\geq 1000$  ppm
- Barrier enhancement for soil lead between 700 and 1000 ppm

## Box and Basin Goal

- 5% or less probability of child blood lead level  $> 10$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  and 1% or less probability of child blood lead level  $> 15$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ .
- Panhandle Health District offers consultations and follow-up with all children who test over 3.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$

## Next Steps

### Evaluation

- Work with cleanup partners
- Ensure cleanup levels and actions remain protective
- Review decades of historical data including more than 7000 properties that have been cleaned up
- Evaluation will take a year or longer

### Decision

- Continue to follow current plan if no changes are required
- If changes are required, EPA will ask for community input on a new proposed plan
  - Consider all public comments
  - EPA will issue a formal decision (remedy, cleanup plan, ESD)

# THANK YOU

An aerial photograph of a river valley. The river flows through a lush green forested area. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a blue sky with some clouds. The river has several small ponds or reservoirs along its course. A road or bridge is visible on the left side of the river.

## Additional Information

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