



## BoRit SUPERFUND SITE UPDATE ACTIVITY BASED SAMPLING (ABS)

AMBLER, WHITPAIN, UPPER DUBLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

JULY 2011

*EPA's cleanup at the BoRit Asbestos Site is based on using sound science and with the health and safety of the community as a priority. We are committed to providing the community with accurate information and opportunities to be involved throughout the cleanup process.*

*Regular updates will continue to be sent to the community about our activities. For more information please visit our website often at: [www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm)*

### OFF-SITE PROPERTY SAMPLING

As part of the Remedial Investigation for the BoRit Asbestos Superfund Site, EPA is collecting samples from off-site properties near the site, including residential properties. Specifically, EPA will be conducting Activity Based Sampling (ABS) on select properties. The goals of this sampling are to 1) determine if asbestos has migrated from the BoRit site, and 2) determine if day-to-day activities would expose people to unhealthy levels of asbestos. EPA will provide a copy of the data from the sampling events to individual private property owners, but does not provide specific data to the public due to privacy issues. EPA will share overall findings, and next steps, with the community.

**If you have questions regarding the upcoming sampling, please contact EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, Trish Taylor at [taylor.trish@epa.gov](mailto:taylor.trish@epa.gov) or 215-814-5539.**

### WHAT IS ACTIVITY BASED SAMPLING (ABS)?

ABS is air sampling designed to mimic typical activities that people do in their yards. The ABS sampling includes:

**Shallow Soil Sampling:** Workers will remove a small circle of grass and collect about half a cup of soil at each sampling location in each yard.

**Active Raking/Mowing:** Workers will rake or mow the backyard for two hours.

**Air Sampling:** Workers will take air samples at breathing level while they are raking or mowing.

*EPA will water the yards after all sampling  
to minimize any potential dust that may be generated during our work.*

## IMPORTANT NOTES

- EPA contractors will be wearing white TYVEK suits and respirators while they take the samples.
- Federal health and safety regulations require our workers to wear this safety equipment because they work in a variety of situations where they *might* encounter asbestos. This is only a standard health and safety protocol and does not mean there is asbestos in the air.
- You do not need to wear the same protective clothing.
- Although it is unlikely that enough dust will be created to reach your property, you may consider closing your windows if you are sensitive to dust.

## WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

Asbestos is naturally occurring fibrous minerals that is relatively strong, can be woven, and resistant to heat. Because of these properties, asbestos fibers have been used in a wide range of manufactured goods, including roofing shingles, ceiling and floor tiles, paper and cement products, textiles, coatings, and friction products such as automobile clutch, brake and transmission parts.

Exposure to airborne asbestos may result in a potential health risk because persons breathing the air may breathe in asbestos fibers. Continued exposure can increase the amount of fibers that remain in the lung. Fibers embedded in lung tissue over time may cause serious lung diseases including asbestosis, lung cancer, or mesothelioma.

*For more information about asbestos exposures, go to: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Contact EPA

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**EPA's BoRit Websites:**

**[www.epaosc.org/borit](http://www.epaosc.org/borit)**

**and**

**[www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/npl/PAD981034887.htm)**