



# BORIT UPDATE: EPA SEEKS ACCESS TO SAMPLE RESIDENTIAL YARDS

Ambler, Whitpain and Upper Dublin, Pennsylvania

September 2016

## Your Participation is Requested

EPA is requesting permission to collect Activity-Based Samples (ABS) of the air in your backyard. The purpose of the sampling is to:

- Determine if asbestos has traveled from the BoRit site to residential properties, and
- Assess whether common residential activities that may disturb the soil pose potential risks to human health.

**You do not have to be home while we sample. We do not need to enter your home.** However, we recommend that you keep windows closed during sampling to reduce your exposure to any potential dust we create during the sampling activities.

- The sampling will take approximately two hours to complete at any one yard, but additional time will be needed for equipment setup and preparations.
- All sampling results will be shared with you when they become available.

## What is Activity-Based Sampling (ABS)?

In the process of playing, gardening, or performing maintenance chores, residents may disturb soil and create dust. ABS is designed to mimic the activities in which people typically engage. The ABS sampling process includes:

**Active Raking** - Workers will rake your backyard for approximately two hours. Raking is considered the most aggressive activity with the greatest chance to release particles or fibers into the air.

**Air Sampling** - Workers will take air samples at the breathing level for adults and children while they are raking.

## ACCESS AGREEMENTS MUST BE SIGNED BY THE PROPERTY OWNERS

- Owners: If you agree to allow us to sample your property, please sign the attached "Access Agreement". Renters: Please provide the access form to your landlord.
- Contact one of the individuals (see page 2) and we will pick up the signed form at your convenience.

## WHEN WILL ABS BEGIN?

*If the weather is dry, sampling will be conducted during the week of **September 19**.*

*If weather is too wet, sampling will be postponed until the week of September 26 or when soil conditions dry out.*

## MORE INFORMATION

*After sampling, EPA will water your yard and cover up any bare spots caused by our soil-disturbing activities with soil and grass seed to minimize any potential for exposure to loosened dust.*

## What You Need to Know During ABS Activities

While conducting ABS activities, EPA contractors will wear protective white TYVEK suits and respirators.

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 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.

You should keep your windows closed while we take the samples to reduce your exposure to any potential dust we create during our work.

## What is Asbestos?

Asbestos is the name given to a number of naturally occurring fibrous minerals with high tensile strength, the ability to be woven, and resistance to heat and most chemicals. 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.

## Contact Us

### Community Involvement Coordinators:

Carrie Deitzel  
EPA Region 3  
215-814-5525  
[deitzel.carrie@epa.gov](mailto:deitzel.carrie@epa.gov)

Vance Evans  
EPA Region 3  
215-814-5526  
[evans.vance@epa.gov](mailto:evans.vance@epa.gov)

### On-Scene Coordinator:

Jack Kelly  
EPA Region 3  
215-514-6792  
[kelly.jack@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jack@epa.gov)

## Resources

For more information about the BoRit Site, please visit EPA's BoRit Websites at:

<http://www.epaosc.org/borit>

For more information about EPA's Superfund Program: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund>

For more information about asbestos exposure, please visit:

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