



Federated Metals 2018 Work Activities Summary

Federated Metals Site

Hammond and Whiting, Indiana

December 2018

EPA contacts

If you have questions, comments or need more information about the Federated Metals site you can contact the site's **Hotline** at **219-561-9553** or these EPA team members:

For soil sampling and cleanup questions

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On-Scene Coordinator

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For general questions

Charles Rodriguez

Community Involvement

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On the web

epa.gov/in/federated-metals-corporation-site

Para información en español:

Si prefiere recibir una copia en español de este documento, por favor comuníquese con Charles Rodriguez, cuya información de contacto se encuentra arriba.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has completed cleanup work and assessment activities for the year near the Federated Metals site in Hammond and Whiting, Ind. This fact sheet updates the community about the soil assessment and cleanup projects the Agency has been undertaking in residential areas.

Soil sampling

During 2018, EPA collected soil samples from 242 properties to determine the extent of historic lead contamination from the Federated Metals plant. The investigation area is bounded by the alley between 119th Street and Fischrupp Avenue to the north, extending to Atchison Avenue to the west, and to White Oak Avenue to the east. The southern border is located between George Lake Trail and East Lakeview Street.

The assessment found 163 residential yards that had soil lead levels above EPA's health standard. EPA provided property owners with results letters after the data was validated by the laboratories that analyzed the samples.

Cleanup activities

EPA used its legal authority under the Superfund law to conduct what is called a "time-critical removal action" to clean up priority properties where surface lead levels were equal to or exceeded 1,200 parts lead per million parts soil and where sensitive populations resided. For this project, sensitive population was defined as pregnant women, and children under seven.

In 2018, EPA cleaned up 28 priority properties before suspending activities for the winter months. Cleanup work involved the excavation of lead-contaminated soil, backfilling with clean earth, and yard restoration. Precautions were taken to minimize dust generation during the work, and air monitoring was conducted.

What's next?

EPA will return in spring 2019 to clean up three remaining priority properties and complete all restoration activities that were suspended for the winter.

Residential properties remain where the soil sampling showed elevated lead levels but were not cleaned up because they did not meet the criteria for a time-critical removal action. EPA will continue to coordinate and share data with the cities of Whiting and Hammond, and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and to work with them to explore ways to find funding and legal authority to clean up the remaining contaminated properties at the site.

Continued on back ...

Protect yourself

When they received their sample results from EPA, property owners with high lead levels in their yards were advised on steps they could take to protect their families. Residents whose properties have not been sampled and who have concerns about possible lead contamination in their soil can take these precautions:

- Cover and maintain any exposed soil on your property with grass, mulch, gravel, or paving. This will reduce the possibility of coming into direct contact with lead-contaminated soil.
- Anyone working or playing in the yard should remove their shoes before entering the home to prevent tracking soil inside.
- It is also important that people living in the home, especially children, wash their hands thoroughly before preparing food, eating, or drinking.
- Garden in raised beds filled with clean soil purchased from a nursery or garden store.

You can also obtain information about lead contamination at these websites:

- www.epa.gov/lead.
- www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead.



This is what typical soil excavation work looked like in yards near Federated Metals. Grass, trees and vegetation were restored after the contaminated soil was removed.