



Colorado Smelter Site Update

Fall | Winter 2017–2018



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

About this update

EPA, the state of Colorado and the Pueblo City-County Health Department want to inform those living in or near the Colorado Smelter Superfund study area about what is happening at the site.

The Colorado Smelting Company was in operation from 1883 to 1908. This past smelting activity left behind very high levels of lead and arsenic in the former smelter area and it is possible high levels may be in nearby residential soils. Today EPA and our partners are working to clean up the site.

Interim Record of Decision (i-ROD) for soils and indoor dust finalized

EPA and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment completed the early interim record of decision (i-ROD) on September 26, 2017 after the second public comment period ended on September 15, 2017. The i-ROD explains how EPA is going to start cleaning yards and inside homes located in the study area. Cleanups will include dirt removal and replacement up to 18 inches below ground surface, as well as indoor lead dust cleanups where necessary. The box at right, *Site Specific Cleanup Levels*, shows the cleanup levels established at this site to see if a home does or does not need a cleanup.

Site-Specific Cleanup Levels

Arsenic in soil: 61 ppm

Lead in soil: 350 ppm

Arsenic in indoor dust: 61 ppm

Lead in indoor dust: 275 ppm

**parts per million (ppm)*

EPA Superfund Program Activities

EPA has been working with state and local partners to get the site sampled and do clean ups that will protect human health and the environment.

As of February 9, 2018 EPA completed the following work:

- **358 homes sampled indoors** for lead dust and other metals. About 10–15 homes are sampled per month.
- **680 yards sampled outdoors** for lead and other metals in soil. About 15–20 homes are sampled per month.

- **Sampled three city parks and Bessemer School** – Soil results from Bessemer park, Stauter Field, Bessemer school came back below the cleanup level. EPA cleaned Benedict park to protect people from future risk where high levels of contamination were found deep underground.
- **Benedict Park play area cleanup** – EPA cleaned the park in December 2017. The cleanup completed will protect people from what could have been future risk in cases where the gravel cover was removed, to erode over time, or if contaminated dirt below the ground had somehow mixed with the gravel cover.
- **34 indoor home cleanups** completed from June 2016–December 2017 to remove lead-contaminated dust.
- **Other soil sampling activities** – EPA has sampled the city alleyways and city-owned parcels. EPA will share the results with the city, state, and community and will use those results to make future cleanup decisions. EPA is also working on phase II of a ductwork pilot study. The study will determine if the ductwork is contaminated with lead and arsenic dust; if running the heater/air conditioner could re-contaminate clean living spaces; and if the ductwork can be cleaned without re-contaminating the home.
- On January 31, 2018, **EPA began outdoor cleanups** with help from the US Army Corps of Engineers.

EPA's next steps in 2018 include:

- **Begin air monitoring** – EPA has started planning installation of our first air monitor close to the former smelter area, or what is called Operable Unit 2, the slag pile area. Air monitoring should begin in late-winter and will be ongoing for about one year.
- **Sampling Runyon field soils.**
- Continued **outdoor and indoor cleanups.**
- **Participate in Community Advisory Group (CAG) meetings** – EPA and partners will continue to share and talk about the latest site information and updates.

**Your Community Advisory Group
Meets the Second Tuesday of
(nearly) each Month**

5:30–7:30 p.m.

Check website, or call, for location

To get on our CAG email list, contact:
V. Jasmin Guerra at EPA (*hablo español*)

1-800-227-8917, ext. 312-6508

www.epa.gov/superfund/colorado-smelter

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Activities

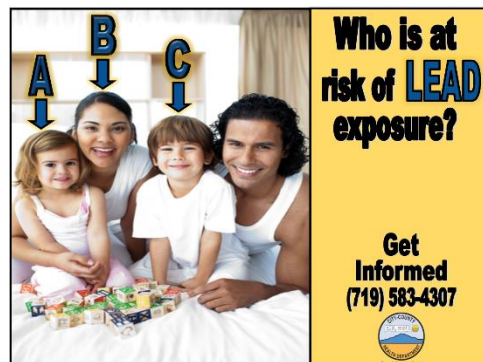
The state health department is a support agency to EPA working in partnership giving technical and community involvement oversight and support. The state health department helps to draft and review many documents that go into the site Administrative Record. In 2017, the state of Colorado helped with:

- Mailing site updates to over 2,500 properties, residents and property owners inside the study area.
- Adding funds to the local health department to support their lead program. The funding was part of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention contract in the amount of \$22,500 to support two years of work.
- Conducting a cancer registry study that also looked closely at lead and arsenic.

Pueblo City-County Health Department Lead Program Activities

The Pueblo City-County Health Department has done many blood lead investigations, healthy homes assessments and outreach activities as part of the lead program. As of January 2018 these include:

- **186 total blood lead screenings** in the Superfund study area.
- **24 healthy home screenings** in the Superfund study area.
- **24 elevated blood lead investigations.** Investigations happen when citizens have blood lead levels over 5 micrograms per deciliter and include both blood lead testing and a healthy home screening.



The latest Pueblo City-County Health Department billboard encourages women of child-bearing age and children to get blood lead testing.

To find out more about getting a healthy home assessment or blood-lead screening call the Pueblo City-County Health Department at (719) 583-4307.

Colorado Smelter Revitalization Project

The Colorado Smelter Revitalization Project is a local, community-based project that finds ways to improve areas and neighborhoods around the Colorado Smelter study area.

In 2017, the project group hosted a workshop where community members and agencies came together to talk about what mattered most to people living in Pueblo. Topics from the workshop looked at ways to support community goals for housing, local businesses, jobs, and transportation in a way that would make local development work in the interests of neighboring communities.

The Colorado Smelter Revitalization Project will keep the energy going in 2018 by taking information learned at past community events and seeing how we can use that information at the Colorado Smelter site.

For more information, visit:

- [EPA Colorado Smelter Superfund website](https://www.epa.gov/superfund/colorado-smelter): <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/colorado-smelter>
- [State Health Department Colorado Smelter Superfund website](https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/cosmelt): <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/cosmelt>
- [PCCHD lead program website](http://county.pueblo.org/government/county/department/city-county-health-department/colorado-smelter): <http://county.pueblo.org/government/county/department/city-county-health-department/colorado-smelter>



In May 2017, Administrator Scott Pruitt established a task force to restore EPA's Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency's core mission to protect health and the environment.

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force>