

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Westside Lead Investigation

Atlanta, Georgia



Fact Sheet #2

July 2019

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is investigating possible lead soil contamination in Atlanta's Westside neighborhoods. EPA is seeking access to perform sampling at selected properties. More information for residents, homeowners and business owners is provided below.

EPA is also hosting two community information sessions on Tuesday, July 23, 2019, for residents to learn more. During these informal, drop-in gatherings, community members can talk one-on-one with representatives from the EPA, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the Georgia Department of Public Health. The same information will be presented at both sessions, which are being held at different times to accommodate varying schedules.

Environmental Sampling

EPA is offering soil testing at no cost to residents and property owners in a section of English Avenue encompassing 330 properties between Joseph E. Boone Blvd NW, Chestnut St NW, Cameron Alexander Blvd NW and the old CSX rail line (see map). Industrial and commercial properties will not be sampled under EPA's current project. The samples will be taken from outside the homes, and residents/property owners do not have to be present. Individual results will be kept confidential and shared directly with residents and property owners.

*Map of the Westside study area.
Area may be expanded.*

If the sampling indicates additional properties may be impacted, the study area will be expanded, as necessary. The results will determine what, if any, additional response actions are necessary to protect human health and the environment.

You are invited to attend a Community Information Session

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

9:00 to 12:00 p.m. or
5:00- 7:00 p.m.

On the Rise Financial Center
810 Joseph E. Boone Blvd
Atlanta, GA 30314



We Need Your Help to Test Your Soil

EPA is offering free soil lead testing for residents and property owners in the Westside study area (see map on page 1).

If you are the renter or owner, please sign the attached access authorization to give EPA permission to sample your yard.

What You Can Do

Read the letter and access authorization. Call any of the contacts listed below if you have questions about either document. Most importantly, **please sign the access authorization and return it by mail in the postage-paid envelope. You may also scan and e-mail the signed agreement to R4_Westside_Lead@epa.gov.**

We understand you may have questions about the possible contamination and what it means for you and your family. Residents and property owners are encouraged to reach out to the EPA contacts listed below and/or come to a community information session (see page 1) to learn more. To limit you and your family's exposure to lead, please visit the Georgia Department of Health's website at <https://dph.georgia.gov/lead-education-and-faqs>. This website lists simple steps you can take to reduce your lead exposure.

Background

In 2018, an Emory University doctoral student shared data with the EPA showing elevated lead levels collected from soil samples in Atlanta's Westside neighborhoods. Additional research by EPA led to the discovery of industrial smelting waste (slag) on at least two (2) lots near Elm Street. Though slag may be a possible source of lead contamination, the presence of slag material does not automatically equate to high levels of lead in soil. Sampling around the Elm Street area indicated lead levels above EPA's recommended residential level of 400 milligrams per kilogram, also known as "parts per million" (ppm) was present in some, but not all, locations. Sampling is required to determine the specific risk for your property and will be used to evaluate the appropriate next steps to protect public health and the environment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.epa.gov/
superfund/westside-lead](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/westside-lead)

or email us at
R4_Westside_Lead@epa.gov

CONTACTS

EPA On-Scene Coordinators

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EPA Community Involvement Coordinators

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