

# U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Fireworks Superfund Site Cordova, Shelby County, Tennessee



Fact Sheet Number 1

September 2021

In consultation with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed the National Fireworks Site in Cordova, Tennessee, to the Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is a priority list of hazardous waste sites eligible for cleanup funds. EPA is soliciting public comments on the proposed listing for 60 days ending on November 8, 2021.

A pre-recorded presentation regarding the proposed NPL listing of National Fireworks can be found online at: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/national-fireworks>. EPA can hold a public meeting if requested by the community. If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Brown (see p. 3 for contact information).

Site investigations found contamination in groundwater and soil. Contamination resulted from operations and waste handling practices at the Site. Potential contaminants of concern in soil and groundwater include perchlorate, metals, and chlorinated solvents.

This fact sheet provides an overview of the Superfund NPL process and information on how to submit public comments, along with background on the National Fireworks Site and previous investigations.

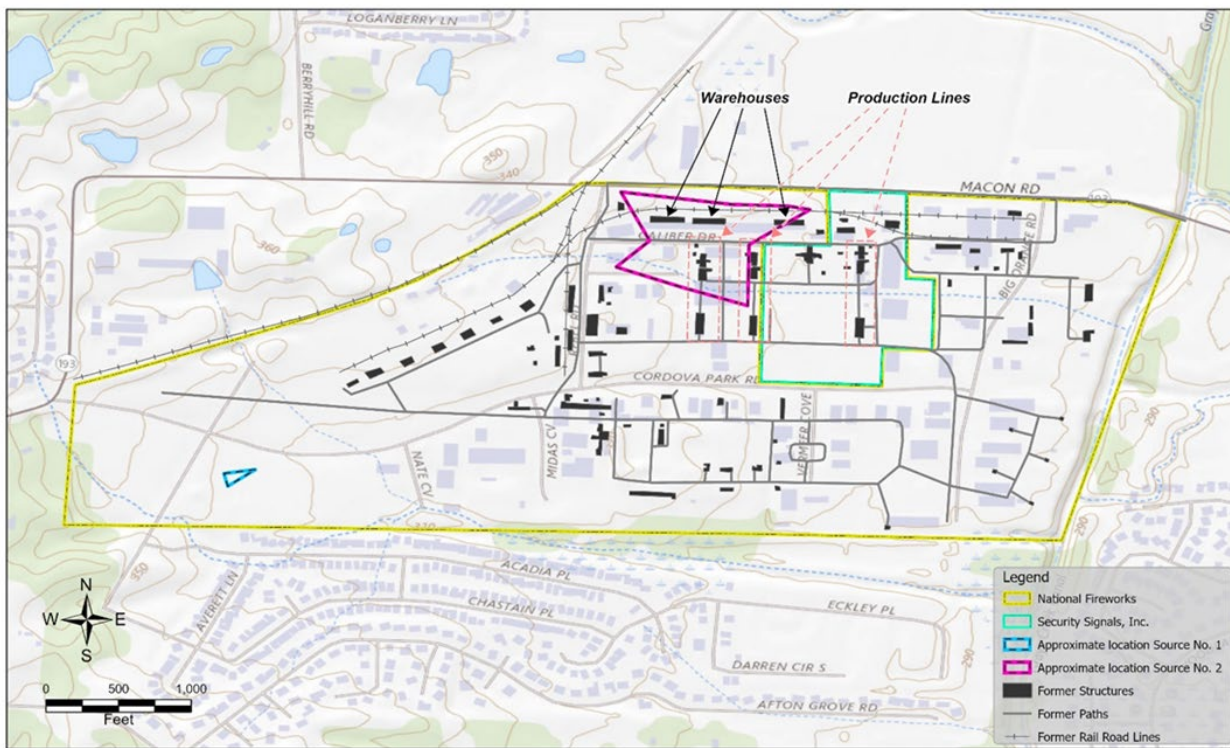
## Proposal to the Superfund National Priorities List

The EPA has determined that the National Fireworks Site qualifies for the next step in the Superfund process: inclusion on the EPA's National Priorities List (NPL). Sites added to the NPL are eligible to receive federal funding for long-term cleanup. Superfund is the EPA program that addresses releases of hazardous substances to the environment at sites like National Fireworks. The NPL is a list of uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for investigation and comprehensive cleanup and guides the EPA in identifying and prioritizing those sites for further assessment of public health and environmental risks. Adding the Site to the priority list will allow the EPA to use Superfund authorities and additional resources to determine the extent of contamination, the risks to human health and the environment, and conduct any cleanup found to be necessary. Sites are deleted from the NPL once all response actions are completed, and all cleanup goals have been achieved.

**We want to hear from you!**

The public comment period for the  
Proposed NPL listing is  
**September 9 to November 8, 2021.**

Please visit  
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/national-fireworks>  
for a pre-recorded presentation outlining the  
proposed listing.



**Figure 1: National Fireworks Historical Site Layout**

## Background

The National Fireworks Site is located east of Memphis in Cordova, Shelby County, Tennessee, at 9400-9600 Macon Road. The site is bounded on the north by Macon Road, on the east by Grays Creek, on the south by forested property, on the west by a Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) easement, and on the northwest by railroad tracks. National Fireworks operated from 1942 to 1945. During operations, National Fireworks manufactured various munitions, including flares, grenades, and incendiary bombs, as well as 20-millimeter and 40-milimeter rounds for the United States Army and Navy. Operations included mixing chemicals and testing manufactured goods on-site. Also located on the property, is a burn pit which was used for disposal of building materials and chemicals. Other areas at the site were used for testing signal flares and disposal of various chemical wastes. In 1986, developers redeveloped the 260-acre site as Cordova Industrial Park.

## Previous Investigations

In 2001, a Site Inspection (SI) identified contaminants in environmental media. In 2005, an Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) identified metals and chlorinated solvents in soils and groundwater. 2010 and 2016 investigations characterized the extent of contamination at the burn pit. In 2018, an ESI was conducted to determine the extent of chlorinated solvents in soils and groundwater. Groundwater and soil contamination are also present at Security Signals, Inc., an operating facility adjacent to the National Fireworks Site. Security Signals, Inc. is conducting environmental restoration activities for contamination on that property under a 2020 agreement with the EPA and TDEC. The Security Signals, Inc. property is not included in the National Fireworks Site. In May 2021, EPA conducted a vapor intrusion study for buildings in the Cordova Industrial Park that overlies the chlorinated solvent groundwater plume associated with the former munitions manufacturing area of the National Fireworks Site. Analytes of concern in indoor air were either not detected or found at concentrations that do not pose a risk to human health.

## Public Comment

EPA will consider public comments before making a final decision about adding the Site to the NPL. Information that EPA used to support the NPL proposal is available for public review and comment online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). In the search bar, type in the docket number for the National Fireworks Site: **EPA-HQ-OLEM-2021-0465**. You can also find a link to this information on the Site webpage at <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/national-fireworks>.

The public has 60 days to comment on the proposed listing of the National Fireworks Site to the NPL. Submit your comments from September 9 to November 8, 2021 by the following methods:

1. **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
2. **Agency Web Site:** <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/current-npl-updates-new-proposed-npl-sites-and-new-npl-sites>. Scroll down to the site for which you would like to submit comments and click the “Comment Now” link. EPA-HQ-OLEM-2021-0465 must be in the subject line.
3. **Mail:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center, Superfund Docket, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460.

**All public comment submissions must include the Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OLEM-2021-0465**

### Pre-Recorded Presentation

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/national-fireworks>

*If there is community interest, EPA can schedule a virtual public meeting*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

**National Fireworks Community Outreach Number**

**(877) 718-3752**

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