

USS Lead Superfund Site Community Involvement Activities (2006-Present)

2006

- Jan.** Established local repository at East Chicago Public Library; established site web page
- Mar.** Fact Sheet: EPA to Begin Testing for Lead Contamination in Yards
- Mar. 22-23** Held informal meetings to explain sampling process and asked for access agreements for sampling in Zone 1
- Jun.** Remedial Project Manager provided info to East Chicago council member regarding Superfund process
- Dec.** Mailed postcard to residents thanking them for letting EPA take samples from yards in Zone 1

2007

- Oct.** EPA/IDEM Fact Sheet announcing availability session
- Nov. 8** Held Town Hall Meeting in Zone 1
- Dec. 5** Held RCRA/Superfund informational meeting in Zone 1

2008

- Sept.** USS Lead site proposed to the National Priority List (NPL)

2009

- Jun.** Mailed "EPA Begins Cleanup" postcard to Zones 1-3
- Sept. 3** Site added to the NPL
- Summer** Collected additional access agreements for Zone 3
- Nov. 30** Placed ad in Gary Post Tribune announcing December 7-8, 2009 information sessions for Zones 1-3
- Dec. 7-8** Held informational meetings to discuss sampling activities in Zones 1-3
- Dec.** Mailed EPA to Begin Testing for Lead Contamination and EPA a Comenzar Las Pruebas de Contaminacion de Plomo in Patios fact sheets regarding sampling activities (English and Spanish) in Zones 1-3
- Mailed postcards to Zones 1-3 announcing sampling activities (English and Spanish)
- Collected samples in Zones 2 and 3
- Dec. 17** Held informational meeting to explain residential testing process and answer questions for Zones 1-3

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2010

- Mar. 9** Attended meeting with the city of East Chicago Department Heads
- Apr.** Mailed sampling results from December 2009 sampling event for Zones 2 and 3
- May 23** Placed ad in Northwest Indiana Times announcing interviews (English and Spanish) for Zones 1-3
- Jun. 2** Placed second ad in Northwest Indiana Times announcing interviews (English and Spanish) for Zones 1-3
- Jun. 8-10** Held community interviews for Zones 1-3 to develop Community Involvement Plan (CIP); Spanish translator was on site to assist
- Jul. 24** Participated in Calumet Day and distributed lead-prevention information
- Aug.** Collected additional samples; collected additional access agreements for Zones 2 and 3

2011

- Apr.** Published Community Involvement Plan
- May** Mailed sampling results from August 2010 sampling event to Zones 2 and 3
- Oct.** Hand delivered sampling results with color-coded pages explaining results and levels of contamination to Zones 1-3
- Dec.** Presentation for Public Meeting

2012

- Jul.** Published EPA Proposed Cleanup Plan for Residential Area and public meeting announcement in English and Spanish, La EPA Propone Plan de Limpieza para Area Residencial and mailed to residents in Zones 1-3
Placed ads in Gary Post Tribune and Que Viva (Spanish) announcing public comment period and public meeting for Zones 1-3
- Jul. 25** Held public meeting regarding proposed plan for Zones 1-3
- Jul. 12 –Aug. 11** Held public comment period for Zones 1-3
- Aug. 26** Placed ads in Gary Post Tribune and Que Viva (Spanish) announcing extension of public comment period for Zones 1-3
- Aug. 11-Sept. 10** Held extended public comment period for Zones 1-3

2013

- Aug.** Two local Walgreens distributed gardening and other information for Zones 1-3
Riley Park & MLK Center distributed gardening and other information for Zones 2 and 3

2014

- Oct. 2 and 24** Task Force Meetings
- Oct.** Mailed Agreement Helps Start Project to Clean Up Contaminated Soil fact sheet and information session announcement and next steps for Zones 1-3
- Nov. 18-19** Held information sessions to discuss cleanup activities for Zones 1-3
- Dec.** Mailed letters requesting access agreements and information about cleanup for Zone 3

2015

- Feb.-Sept.** Went door-to-door to get access agreements; left “missed you” flyers on doors in Zone 3
- Jul.** Mailed packets to residents in Zone 3 that were not home or those that denied access (packets included access agreement, fact sheet, property values info, ATSDR fact sheet)
- Sept.** Met with local health department regarding upcoming result letters to residents, and what action they can take
- Oct. – Dec.** Provided on-site support in local neighborhood office
- Oct.** Received list of owners in Zones 1-3 from Water Department to find owner names and phone number to send packets to
Received list of owners in Zones 1-3 from East Chicago Assessors office to find owner names and phone numbers to send packets to
- Nov.** Mailed packets to residents in Zones 3 that were not home or those that denied access (packets included access agreement, fact sheet, property values info, ATSDR fact sheet)
Called and left messages regarding access agreements for residents in Zones 3 that were not home or those that denied access
Letter and access agreements sent to (5) City alderman asking for assistance in getting access agreements for Zones 1-3
Letter and access agreements sent to (9) Local Churches asking for assistance in getting access agreements for Zones 1-3
- Dec.** Called and left messages regarding access agreements for residents that were not home or those that denied access for Zone 3

2016

- Mar.–May** Went door-to-door to get access agreements; left “missed you” flyers on doors in Zone 3
- Jun.** EPA met with the city of East Chicago officials and provided them with draft education brochures for their review and comment
- Jul. 5** Went door-to-door to the residents of the Housing Complex in Zone 1 and left lead prevention flyers that provided ways to avoid exposure to contaminated dirt and mulch. Flyers also contained ways to contact the EPA Community Involvement Coordinator.
- Jul. 11** A site trailer has been established at the corner of 149th Street and McCook Avenue which is staffed by EPA outreach personnel to answer resident questions
- Jul. 20** Went door-to-door to the residents of the Housing Complex in Zone 1 and left EPA Takes Action to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Soil fact sheet that provided ways to avoid exposure to contaminated dirt and mulch. Flyers also contained ways to contact the EPA Community Involvement Coordinator.
Placed “Do not play in the dirt or mulch” yard signs throughout the neighborhood of the Housing Complex in Zone 1 and left “Don’t Let Kids Play in Dirt” flyers and contact information for the EPA Community Involvement Coordinator for residents.
- Jul. 22** Placed additional “Do not play in the dirt or mulch” yard signs throughout the neighborhood of the Housing Complex in Zone 1
- Jul. 25 - 27** Collected signed access agreements from residents regarding indoor dust sampling.
- Aug.** Published Residents Guide to Temporary Relocation
Distributed Temporary Relocation Flier
- Aug. 2-6** Canvassing Zone 2 for soil sampling
- Aug. 3** Meeting with mayor and East Chicago Housing Authority

2016	Aug. 4	Four canvassing teams contacted 24 units to date, 23 expressed interest in getting their units cleaned
	Aug. 8	School District Meeting Availability Session with ATSDR & School District
	Aug. 16	Meeting at First Baptist Church with East Chicago Ministers Alliance
	Aug. 18	West Calumet Housing Complex Resident Meeting
	Aug. 26	Distributed Drinking Water Safety: Information for East Chicago Residents fact sheet and EPA's Home Cleaning Process: What Residents Need to Know
	Aug. 29	Delivered results letters to residents in Zone 1 fact sheet
	Aug. 30	Held Multi-Agency Open House for Zones 1-3 (post card announcement)
	Aug. 31	Hand delivered result letters to residents in Zone 1
	Sept. 1	Delivered two CD's with Administrative Record to local library repositories
	Sept. 7	Participated in HUD Fun Day
	Sept. 12	Post cards mailed to Zones 2 & 3 announcing Open House
	Sept. 14	500 postcards to local CAG for Mexican Day Parade
	Sept. 14	Door to door canvassing in Zone 2
	Sept. 16	Canvassing in Zone 1 to collect access agreements from non-responsive residents
	Sept. 20	Yard signs place in yards in Zones 2 & 3 announcing open house
	Sept. 24	Open House for Zones 2 & 3 to provide information on sampling and cleanup of contaminated soil in yards
	Oct. 2016	Door Hangers "EPA Needs to Meet With You" (Tap Water Sampling/Excavation) to Zones 2 and 3 Door Hanger "EPA Needs to Hear From You" (unit cleanup and interviews) to Zone 1 Tap Water Sampling Instructions Fact Sheet to Zones 2 and 3
	Oct. 1-21	Canvassing for priority sites in Zones 2 and 3
	Oct. 13 & 20	Canvassing for priority sites in Zone 1
	Oct. 29	Community Resources Meeting
	Nov. 1 – 8	Canvassing in Zones 2 & 3 to priority sites for tap water and dust sampling before excavation activities
	Nov 30	Mailed post cards in both English and Spanish to residents in all Zones inviting them to a Dec. 10 Open House
	Dec 7	Ad in English and Spanish placed in the Post-Tribune announcing the Dec. 10 Open House
	Dec 10	Presentation on health issues, current and upcoming activities; multi -agency open house

Visit the following websites for more information:

www.epa.gov/uss-lead-superfund-site/uss-lead-superfund-site-community-involvement-activities

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