



Trucks Will Resume Hauling to Lower Burke Canyon Repository



Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup

April 2021

The Lower Burke Canyon Repository is ready for the 2021 work season. The repository is operated by the Coeur d'Alene Work Trust under the direction of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Repositories are designed to reduce risks posed by metals like lead and arsenic. It's a priority to provide cities and counties with a well-managed facility that will take in mine waste year-round. Moving waste from several sites into one smaller, managed location helps control sources of contamination within the Silver Valley.



How much waste do we expect this season?

EPA and the Trust estimate about 500 truckloads of contaminated material will be hauled to LBCR. Waste will primarily come from ICP projects, such as the sewer line project in Mullan. Each year, we make every effort to provide an accurate estimate. However, changes in project work may alter the number of trucks coming to the repository. Hauling will take place May 10 – October, dependent on waste supply.

What are the haulers required to do?

The Trust, EPA, and Panhandle Health District (which runs the ICP) are committed to limiting impacts to the local community. The Trust and PHD will continue to monitor the haulers coming into the repository this season. Following are measures designed to reduce impacts from truck traffic.

1. Truckers are expected to comply with traffic rules, including speed limits. Speed notification signs are in use along the travel routes. Trucks using the repository use State Highway 4 (also known as Canyon Creek Road). This road has a speed limit of 35 mph in the lower section of Canyon Creek, and 45 mph through the LBCR access road. Speeds are set by the Idaho Transportation Department. The Shoshone County Sheriff serves this area. While EPA cannot reduce this speed limit or enforce against traffic violations, we will continue to inform ITD and the Sheriff's Office about any neighborhood complaints.
2. The haulers carrying contaminated material are required to cover their loads. Any truck that arrives at the repository is allowed to dump that load, but any hauler without a tarp is given a warning and is not allowed to return a second time without a tarp.
3. Haulers can bring waste to LBCR during normal hours of 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. ICP waste is sometimes delivered outside of these hours, using a gate access card provided by the ICP.
4. Trucks delivering waste during normal hours go through a decontamination process before going back on the road.
5. Trucks delivering waste through the ICP entrance are required to stay on the clean material cap. They are not decontaminated before leaving the site. The Trust's contractors wet down the waste area as needed to reduce dust.

Panhandle Health District conducts mandatory training for ICP contractors. This training is offered on a weekly basis. It includes information on the importance of obeying cover requirements, speed limits, and designated routes.

EPA will work closely with the Coeur d'Alene Work Trust to incorporate up-to-date guidance on reducing risk of contracting COVID-19 during hauling.

Many thanks to everyone in the community for your cooperation and patience as we work to protect the health of people and the environment. Please contact us if you have questions or concerns.

For More Information

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Cleanup Website: epa.gov/superfund/bunker-hill

Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommodation, call Debra Sherbina at 206-553-0247.

TTY users, call the Federal Relay Service at 808-877-8339 and ask for Debra at 206-553-0247.