

Residential cleanup plan FAQs

Q: What are the highlights of this program?

A: Soil removal activities are occurring in two residential neighborhoods near the Exide Technologies facility in Vernon. South Coast Air Quality Management District studies revealed these two assessment areas to be most likely impacted by Exide's emissions.

Q: How long will the soil removal take?

A: This depends upon the size of the property. Generally, it should not take more than a week to remove and replace soil.

Q: How many yards have been cleaned up?

A: Exide contractors have already performed cleanup work on two yards. Additional yards will be cleaned up in accordance with the final Interim Measures Work Plan (IMWP) link:

http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/upload/2014-11-7_Exide_Final-IMWP-Assessment-Areas.pdf

Q: How many properties have been sampled?

A: Of the 215 properties in the two affected neighborhoods, 103 have been sampled as of Nov. 10, 2014. We encourage the homeowners of properties that have not been sampled to contact DTSC Public Participation Specialist, Marina Perez via e-mail Marina.Perez@dtsc.ca.gov or toll-free at 1-844-225-3887 to set up an appointment. The results of the sampling will dictate how many properties will require cleanup and at what the level of cleanup necessary.

Q: How is DTSC notifying property owners?

A: DTSC staff will call residents and property owners to schedule home visits. Work notices detailing the impact on the neighborhood also will be distributed at least a week prior to the start of the soil removal work activities. The actual work will likely begin December, weather permitting.

Q: Will the families have to remain in their homes while the cleanup is under way?

A: No. Residents will be given the option of relocating while the work is being performed. This would be at no cost to the resident.

Q: Who will pay for relocation and costs of meals?

A: Exide is paying all costs.

Q: What if relocated residents use public transportation?

A: Efforts will be made to assist with transportation, including the use of buses, trains, etc.

Q: What happens to the soil that is removed?

A: The soil will be transported to a landfill licensed to receive it.

Q: Are residents in the neighborhood at risk?

A: Sampling to date has not found lead levels that require an emergency response. We encourage all residents in the northern and the southern assessment areas to have their yards sampled. Here are links to maps of the assessment areas: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/upload/Map-Assessment-Map-Northern-Neighborhood-Sept-2104.pdf>

<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/upload/Map-Assessment-Map-Southern-Neighborhood-Sept-2014.pdf>

Q: How does DTSC determine which yards to clean up first?

A: Two categories will receive priority: Properties with lead levels over 1,000 parts per million, or those properties with bare soil where young children or pregnant women are present and lead levels are above 400 parts per million in the upper 3 inches of soil at two sample locations.

Q: Is Los Angeles County Department of Public Health still testing the blood-lead levels of residents near the Exide facility?

A: Yes, we encourage area residents to sign up for the testing at www.bloodleadtesting.com or by calling toll-free:1-844-888-2290. The test will show whether the level is above the Centers for Disease Control's acceptable limits, and whether medical attention is needed.

Q: How do you know Exide is responsible for the contamination?

A: The facility has been in Vernon for over 90 years. Lead above hazardous waste levels has been detected on the Exide property and in the neighboring communities. Computer modeling has shown that the assessment areas are the most likely to have been impacted by the facility.

Q: Is the Exide facility currently operating?

A: The plant is not currently recycling batteries under an Order imposed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District. It cannot reopen until certain air pollution control devices are installed; that will likely not be until next year.

Q: Didn't DTSC shut the plant down?

A: DTSC suspended Exide's operations in Vernon in April 2013 after receiving information regarding health risks that the facility posed. In addition, DTSC concluded Exide was releasing hazardous waste into the soil. A judge subsequently reversed DTSC's suspension order.

Q: What effect does this have on Exide's permit application?

A: The permit process is unrelated to this action. DTSC is still reviewing the permit application, and has until Dec. 31, 2015 to issue a final decision.