

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and the environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

## DTSC Approves Plan to Clean up Residential Properties Enforcement Order Directs Exide Technologies to Fund Clean Up

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the state agency responsible for the cleanup of hazardous waste and contaminated sites, issued the approval of an Interim Measures Work Plan (IMWP) for the cleanup of lead-contaminated residential yards in areas most likely affected by Exide Technologies' emissions – Boyle Heights, East Los Angeles and Maywood (see enclosed map). Additionally, DTSC announced an enforcement order directing Exide to set aside \$9 million for cleanup of residential yards in these areas.

### Site Location and Soil Testing/Cleanup Update

Exide Technologies is located in the city of Vernon on an industrial property that has been operating as a metal smelting facility for more than 90 years. In the fall 2013, DTSC ordered Exide to test for lead in portions of Boyle Heights, East Los Angeles (Northern Assessment Area), and Maywood (Southern Assessment Area). These areas were identified by the South Coast Air Quality Management District as being most likely affected by Exide's emissions. Thirty-nine property owners within these two Assessment Areas allowed soil sampling on their yards. Some soil samples in these neighborhoods showed elevated levels of lead, higher than the 80 parts per million cleanup level set by DTSC. Due to these levels, DTSC directed Exide to remove the contaminated soil with the highest levels of lead from two residential yards in August 2014. DTSC also ordered Exide to contact residents to schedule soil testing at all residential yards in the two Assessment Areas. From August – October 2014, DTSC reached out to over 200 property owners in these Assessment Areas to encourage the residents to have the soil in their yards sampled. To date, 104 property owners within these two Assessment Areas have had their yards sampled. Samples from 62 of these yards have been analyzed.

While the lab results have not shown any emergency levels of lead, this sampling has shown:

- 12 residential yards have one or more samples with lead levels that exceed 1,000 parts per million; and
- 50 residential yards show lower levels of lead, but were still over DTSC's 80 parts per million cleanup level.

### Interim Measure Work Plan (IMWP)

As a result of the initial soil sampling, DTSC directed Exide to prepare the IMWP in accordance with the February 2002 Corrective Action Consent Order. The IMWP describes the action that Exide will take to clean up soils at residential yards where high lead levels are found. These actions will include:

- Removal of contaminated soil
- Dust control and air monitoring
- Yard restoration work
- Interior home cleaning



Exide will clean up the yards according to priority; higher priority will be given to yards with levels of lead:

- Over 1,000 parts per million, and
- Between 400 parts per million and 1,000 parts per million where pregnant women and children younger than seven years of age and bare soils are present.

Of the 62 yards sampled, 12 yards are in the highest priority and will be cleaned up first. The remaining 50 yards sampled contained lower levels of lead and will be cleaned up after those yards with the highest priority. Soil sampling and cleanup will be at **no cost** to the property owners. Once the contaminated soils are removed, properties will be restored to their original condition, and interior cleaning of the homes will be completed.

Property owners who live in the Assessment Areas can request to have their yard sampled by contacting DTSC at 1-844-225-3887. DTSC also encourages residents to take advantage of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Blood Lead Testing Program by calling 1-844-888-2290.

### **How can I get my property sampled?**

Property owners who live in the Assessment Areas can schedule a soil sampling appointment, by contacting Marina Pérez (Bilingual), DTSC Public Participation Specialist at 1-844-225-3887.

### **What's next?**

Starting the week of November 10, 2014, DTSC staff began contacting property owners whose yards were tested to discuss the soil sampling results; where the contamination was found; what steps will be taken to remove the contamination; and to schedule the soil removal activities work.

### **Where do I get more information?**

A copy of the Final IMWP, Initial Study, Negative Declaration, and this Community Update are available for review at the following repositories:

Maywood Cesar Chavez  
Public Library  
4323 Slauson Avenue  
Maywood, CA 90270  
(323) 771-8600

Robert L. Stevenson  
Branch Library  
803 Spence Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90023  
(323) 268-4710

DTSC  
Regional Records Office  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA, 90630  
(714) 484-5337

Information about the Site can be found online at the DTSC website:

<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/UpdateExideSuspension.cfm>

### **DTSC Contacts**

For questions or additional information, please contact:

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