

COMMUNITY UPDATE

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

INDOOR AIR INVESTIGATION AT THE HISTORICAL ARSENAL PARK, 50 SERIES COMPLEX (PART OF THE BENICIAL ARSENAL'S "LOWER ARSENAL" AREA)



Site Photo: Historical Arsenal Park

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has required monitoring of the indoor air quality at the Historical Arsenal Park, 50 Series Complex (Site), since June 2014. The Site is located at 945 Tyler The Street in Benicia, California 94510. Initially, the western portion of the Site had high indoor air concentrations of Trichloroethylene (TCE) which was higher than the US EPA commercial indoor air limits. Since then with mitigation measures in place, the indoor air measured below this limit until the March 2016 sampling event. Other chemicals of concern (COCs) at the site (benzene and ethylbenzene) remained below their commercial indoor air limits.

WHAT IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO PROTECT MY HEALTH HAVE BEEN TAKEN?

Under DTSC's oversight, the property owner took prompt and immediate actions to restore indoor air concentrations of the COCs to below the indoor air limits in an effort to minimize and eliminate exposures by:

- Checking the functioning of the subfloor exhaust blower
- Opening windows
- Resampling of the affected areas

After taking these actions, the resampling of the indoor air sampling confirmed the TCE concentration in the occupied building areas were again below their US EPA commercial indoor air limits. An exception is the detection of TCE in the basement air which is a restricted access area.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

DTSC recommends continued semi-annual sampling to assure that indoor air concentrations remain below levels considered protective of human health. In addition, the Site owner will install activated carbon filters on two heating ventilation and air conditioning systems in the Building following the immediate actions described above.

DTSC INVOLVEMENT AT THE SITE

In 2013 the property owner became aware of the 2005 US Army report, and then installed the Proposition 65 signs at the Site. This prompted community concern over potential human health risks. DTSC performed a preliminary risk and hazard evaluation on the Site using groundwater data from the 2005 US Army report. DTSC promptly recommended an indoor air investigation of selected buildings at the Site based on the results of the risk evaluation. Since 1990, DTSC has been working with various parties on issues regarding the entire Benicia Arsenal, including efforts to identify where hazardous substances are present at levels that may affect human health and the environment.

THE CHEMICALS OF CONCERN

The chemical of concern (COC) s are TCE, benzene, ethylbenzene. TCE is a man-made chemical which has mostly been used for cleaning metal parts in manufacturing. TCE is a chemical and is considered to present a developmental risk to unborn children. If you are a woman who is pregnant or may be pregnant DTSC recommends that you consult your physician for more information. Benzene and ethylbenzene are components present in fuel or petroleum. Both

are chemical, but unlike TCE, they do not pose an immediate threat to pregnant women.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

From 1849-1964, the military continuously used the Site for ordnance storage, manufacturing, cleaning and testing of small arms. The army had also operated a degreasing dip tank in the west side of the complex that used TCE as a solvent, and likely contributed to the TCE contamination in soil and groundwater at the Site. Preliminary indoor air data from the Site showed that some indoor air concentrations of TCE were above indoor air, commercial screening levels. The highest indoor air concentration of TCE was located in the western portion of the Site; whereas, benzene and ethylbenzene were detected in central portion of the Site.

IMPACT OF CONTAMINATION

Site investigations revealed the presence of TCE and petroleum components in indoor air and groundwater samples. Most commonly, human exposure to these toxins is through air and drinking water. Long term exposure to TCE in indoor air may result in an increased risk of cancer and male reproductive toxicity when breathed continuously over a period of years. However, recent studies suggest that short-term exposure to TCE may significantly impact the developing fetus. If you are a woman who is pregnant or may be pregnant DTSC recommends that you consult your physician for more information. The groundwater at the Site is not a drinking water source. The drinking water is provided by the City of Benicia.



minimize and eliminate exposures:

- Blowers in the areas with high concentrations,
- Opening windows,
- Increased sampling efforts and monitoring events.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Project reports and documents are available for public review at the following locations:

Benicia Public Library
150 East L Street
Benicia, California 94510
(707) 746-4343 (Call for hours)

DTSC Saramento Regional Office (File Room)
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
(916) 255-3758 (Call for appointment)

To view documents online at DTSC’s Envirostor website: visit: www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/ Click on “Site/Facility Search” under “Tools.” Enter “201994” in the Site Code field, click “Get Report.”

DTSC CONTACTS

If you have any questions about the project or would like more information please contact:

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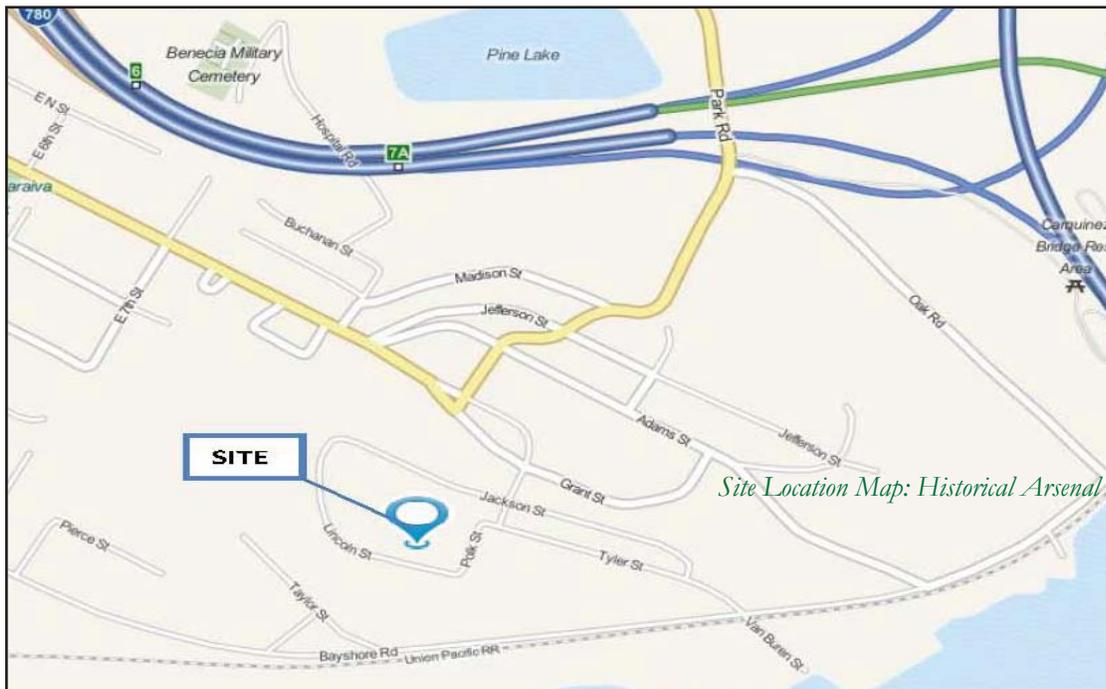
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Site Location Map: Historical Arsenal Park

