

Fact Sheet
July, 2004

1403 E. Jensen Avenue

Formerly known as Fresno Battery
Exchange, Fresno



DTSC FINISHES INVESTIGATION

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



*California
Environmental
Protection Agency*



INTRODUCTION

The Department of Toxic Substances Control has finished an investigation. We studied pollution in soil and in the groundwater at 1403 East Jensen Avenue in southwest Fresno. The site is 8 and $\frac{3}{4}$ acres of land with one home. Other residences are within 100 feet of the site. George Washington Carver Elementary School is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from 1403 East Jensen Avenue.

This fact sheet introduces the investigation at 1403 East Jensen Avenue and gives you some background. Then we will tell you about:

- the history;
- the next steps;
- where to get your questions answered;
- where to get written information.

THE INVESTIGATION

DTSC sampled the soil for metals, pesticides, and petroleum based chemicals at 56 site locations. We also installed three wells to collect samples from groundwater. We found elevated levels of lead throughout the soil around the house at 1403 East Jensen Avenue. The lead exceeds state cleanup action levels. Most of the lead now lies in the fenced off area behind the house.

We used three wells to gather groundwater samples on four different days in 2003. Data from the three wells showed lead in the groundwater below legal levels. The amount of lead in groundwater varies throughout the year. From season to season, changes in water pumping affect the lead levels in the groundwater.

BACKGROUND

A company named Fresno Battery Exchange operated at 1403 East Jensen Avenue from 1960 to 1978. During this period, Fresno Battery Exchange recycled car batteries. Their activities polluted the soil with lead.

HISTORY

In August 2000, The Fresno County Department of Community Health sent a letter to the property owners. This letter let them know of the elevated lead levels in the blood of six children. These children lived at 1403 East Jensen Avenue. Fresno County referred 1403 East Jensen Avenue to DTSC for a more complete investigation.

In 2000, we began sampling and found lead in soil around the house. Afterwards we planned a more detailed investigation. We finished this investigation in January 2004.

OUR NEXT STEPS

DTSC plans to study what actions we could take to remove or cleanup the lead in the soil. We plan more sampling of the groundwater to see if the lead increases with seasonal changes in water levels.

First, we will prepare a draft plan proposing a cleanup for 1403 East Jensen Avenue by late summer. At that point, we will send you a fact sheet. Also, we will hold a public meeting to get your comments on cleaning up 1403 East Jensen Avenue.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions regarding the investigation, please contact:

Calden Koehn
Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1515 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93611
CKoehn@dtsc.ca.gov
(559) 297-3937

Nathan Schumacher
Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
Nschumac@dtsc.ca.gov
(916) 255-3650

For media inquiries, please contact Lisa Gray, DTSC Assistant Public Information Officer, at (916) 324-0936 or LGray@dtsc.ca.gov.

WRITTEN INFORMATION

You may read the investigation report and other related documents in the:

Ivy Center Branch Library
1350 East Annadale Avenue
Fresno, CA 93706
(559) 264-6119

All documents are available at:
the DTSC Clovis office
1515 Tollhouse Road,
Clovis, California 93611

Please call Barbara Doehring at 559-297-3905 for an appointment.

Notice to the Hearing Impaired

TDD users can obtain additional information about 1403 Jensen Avenue by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378). Please ask to reach Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650 about the 1403 Jensen Avenue.

Cut out and mail

ARE YOU ON DTSC's MAILING LIST?

If you would like to be on the 1403 E. Jensen Avenue mailing list, fill out the information below and mail back to: **Nathan Schumacher, Public Participation Specialist, DTSC, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA, 95826**

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please take me off the mailing list.

Note: While this mailing list is solely for DTSC use, we consider the list to be a public record.

