

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL
Response needed by October 15, 2015

Exide Battery Neighborhood Soil Lead Cleanup
 Frankfort, Indiana

Availability Session

Come to talk to EPA, ask questions, and sign up to get your property sampled.

Tuesday, Sept. 8, 4 – 7:00 p.m.
 Frankfort Community Public Library, Room 219
 208 W. Clinton St.

(Details inside)

The project has two key objectives:

TO PROTECT CHILDREN'S HEALTH

- Unhealthy levels of lead are found in the soil in many residences in the neighborhoods surrounding the former Exide factory.
- Lead ingestion in young children can result in damage to the nervous system and mental impairment.
- Lead contamination in communities is due to the historic use of lead paint and leaded fuel and other lead containing products.

TO MINIMIZE IMPACT TO THE COMMUNITY

- All work will be done free of cost to property owners.
- Work will be done on weekdays, during business hours only.
- EPA will work with property owners/residents to schedule cleanup dates that are convenient for them, as much as possible.
- The project has been designed to incorporate resources, processes, and materials that will avoid major disruption to the community and to the environment.



You're invited

EPA will host an **availability session** about the pollution cleanup: **Tuesday, Sept. 8, 4 – 7:00 p.m.**
 Frankfort Community Public Library, Room 219
 208 W. Clinton St.

For more information

If you have questions, comments or need more information about the Exide cleanup contact these EPA team members:

For technical questions

Shelly Lam
 On-Scene Coordinator
 317-308-3073
 lam.shelly@epa.gov

For general questions

Charles Rodriguez
 Community Involvement Coordinator
 312-886-7472
 rodriguez.charles@epa.gov

EPA mailing address:

EPA Region 5
 77 W. Jackson Blvd.
 Mail Code: SI-7J
 Chicago, IL 60604

On the Web:

www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/exidebattery

EPA to Begin Removal of Lead-Contaminated Soil

Exide Battery Superfund Site

Frankfort, Indiana

September 2015

Beginning in late September, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will begin cleaning up lead contamination in yards and restoring properties in the neighborhoods near the Exide Battery facility. The cleanup will be conducted at no cost to property owners or residents. EPA officials will also be testing houses for another pollution issue called “vapor intrusion.” Vapor intrusion occurs when pollutants underground give off hazardous gases that can seep into indoor air through holes and cracks in building foundations and crawl spaces.

This spring, EPA conducted an investigation of lead-contaminated soil in the area around the former Exide facility. Results of the site assessment showed elevated lead in some of the properties tested). The EPA health standard for lead in soil is 400 parts lead per million per million parts. Several yards were found to have lead above this standard. These levels pose a risk, especially to children’s health. Not every property sampled in the target area demonstrated excessive lead levels. EPA is planning a response action for all yards that do have the elevated concentrations (*see Figure 1*).

The removal action is called “time-critical” in EPA terms because the lead poses an immediate health threat if it is left in the yards. The cleanup will



Figure 1: The area outlined in red is the area that will be part of the lead cleanup. The former Exide facility is outlined in Yellow.

consist of an approach called “dig and haul” of contaminated soil to an approved landfill. The primary cleanup methods for lead in residential soil include:

- *Excavation* – Excavation of contaminated soil from a property involves digging it up for treatment or for disposal in a landfill. Removing this potential source of contamination keeps people from coming into contact with dangerous lead levels.
- *Replacing soil* – Clean soil will be brought in to replace the contaminated soil excavated from yards.
- *Green-capping* – Using green cover such as sod to create a protective layer above the soil.

Is excavation safe?

Handling contaminated soil requires precautions to verify safety. Site workers are trained to follow safety procedures while excavating dirt to avoid contact with contaminants and prevent the spread of lead.

Any trees and well-established bushes will be left in place. If there are additional plants the resident or owner would like preserved, EPA will accommodate those requests as much as possible. Yards will be returned to their original state, or residents can also choose a more eco-friendly option that is cost equivalent.

Workers may wear masks to perform the work because they will be in close proximity to dust for the entire period of the neighborhood cleanup. However, it is safe for you and your children to be in the surrounding area.

You might see heavy traffic in the neighborhood. There will be trucks taking the contaminated soil to an approved landfill. Crews will take precautionary measures to make sure the contaminated soil remains securely contained while it travels to its final destination.

Site history

Exide acquired the facility at 555 N. Hoke Ave. in 1987 from General Battery Co. and made batteries there until 1998. Battery production creates lead vapors and airborne lead dust. Since February 1999, Exide used the facility to store equipment from its other locations. In April 2014, two underground storage tanks were removed and solvents were found in soil and underground water supplies. Both lead and these solvents, such as trichloroethene, or TCE, may threaten the health of nearby residents.

Scheduling your home for sampling

EPA will test your yard and house for free to determine if a cleanup is necessary. **Homeowners must have their houses sampled before Oct. 15 in order to be eligible for the no-cost soil removal.** To sign up for testing, complete the enclosed access agreement and return it to:

Charles Rodriguez
EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Mail Code: SI-7J
Chicago, IL 60604

Scheduling your yard for cleanup and restoration

EPA is planning to start the comprehensive cleanup for the entire Exide neighborhood this fall for properties with excessive lead in the soil. The work should take about three months to complete. Actual work for each yard will take about three to five days.

Cleanup is voluntary, and EPA will work closely with each resident to make sure the cleanup satisfies your needs and schedules to the best extent possible. EPA will contact owners and tenants of every property in the defined area to schedule cleanup and restoration as needed.

Scheduling will depend on logistics – for example, doing adjacent yards when possible – as well as residents’ schedules. It is not necessary for you to contact EPA as we will contact you for scheduling. However if you would like to offer your contact information voluntarily so EPA can more easily reach you, you may send your information to Charles Rodriguez, whose contact information is listed in the front-page box.

In the future, available cleanup schedules and information about the cleanup action will be posted on the website listed in the P. 1 box. Check back regularly for updates.

Vapor intrusion

In addition to the soil analysis, EPA also conducted sampling of the air inside and underneath homes. The purpose of taking air samples in and under structures is to detect the presence of potentially harmful vapors coming from contaminated underground water.

These vapors can move through the soil, accumulate underneath houses, and enter the indoor air through

cracks in the foundation, crawlspaces and gaps in utility lines. As mentioned above, this environmental issue is known as vapor intrusion, and it can cause hazardous indoor air pollution.

What chemicals might be in the air?

EPA takes air samples in order to detect a wide range of chemicals, including volatile organic compounds, or VOCs. VOCs are substances that can easily evaporate and move through the soil.

In the Exide neighborhood, the VOC that has been detected in the air inside some houses is called trichloroethylene, or TCE. This chemical is commonly used as a solvent in industries and can be harmful to human health if the concentrations in the air are high enough.

Air samples are taken by using small metal canisters that capture indoor and sub-slab air. One canister is



Figure 2: An example of a system that draws vapors from the soil and vents them outside. It is known as a “sub-slab mitigation system” and prevents hazardous indoor air pollution inside structures that can cause illness and cancer.

placed in a living area, and another canister is placed in the basement; a small hole may be needed to be drilled in the concrete floor of the basement in order to be able to access the air underneath the slab.

What happens after the air in a house is sampled?

After EPA takes air samples in houses, they are analyzed by specialized laboratories. These lab results are then compared to EPA guidelines in order to determine if there is a risk to human health. Homeowners are notified of their results in a letter from EPA.

If there are high levels of a harmful pollutants detected in a building, EPA will work with the residents and property owner to install a vapor mitigation system. This system is very similar to the ones used for radon gas mitigation in many Midwestern houses. It consists of a small fan that moves the air underneath the home through air ducts to be dispersed outside (*see Figure 2 left*).

Field office

EPA’s field office for the Exide project will be open every weekday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for residents to drop in, ask questions, schedule their cleanup (beginning this fall), and discuss the type of green cap they would like after treatment.

The exact location of the field office will be determined soon. It will be located in close proximity to the residential area where the cleanup will take place. EPA will inform residents about the location of the field office once it is finalized.