

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry



Our Mission

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) serves the public through responsive public health actions to promote healthy and safe environments and to prevent harmful exposures. ATSDR is unique in its focus on the human health impact of exposures to hazardous substances.

ATSDR's work falls into four functional areas:

- Protecting the public from hazardous exposures;
- Building the science base on toxic substances;
- Educating health care providers and the public about toxic chemicals; and
- Maintaining health registries.

Activity Snapshot

- Backyard soils near a former pesticide facility in Norwood, Ohio, were found to be contaminated with arsenic. ATSDR's state grantee recommended that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) remove the contaminated soil. EPA initiated and completed a time-critical removal action. ATSDR's grantee reviewed soil sampling results following the removal to confirm that soil no longer posed a public health threat for children in the area.
- When a catastrophic tank failure sent a wave of liquid fertilizer flowing into a residential community in Chesapeake, Virginia, ATSDR staff supported the EPA and state emergency response efforts. ATSDR helped responders understand levels of fertilizer in ambient air, recommended removal and containment options, and analyzed environmental data to help make important decisions to keep residents healthy.
- Local health departments often lack the staff and resources to engage in land reuse and redevelopment decision making. ATSDR has developed two tools that help local health departments provide timely feedback to developers and policy makers on potential health issues associated with reuse of a property that may have chemical contamination.





ATSDR Divisions

In order for ATSDR to carry out its statutory responsibilities, ATSDR has four program-specific divisions to support and implement program activities and initiatives.

Division of Health Assessment and Consultation

The Division of Health Assessment and Consultation conducts public health assessments of all sites proposed for or listed on the National Priorities List and in response to petitions (requests) for public health assessments received from the public.

Division of Health Studies

The Division of Health Studies generates and communicates scientific information about the relationship between hazardous substances and adverse human health effects to promote responsive public health actions.

Division of Regional Operations

The Division of Regional Operations fulfills the Agency's directives at the regional level by staffing an ATSDR Regional Office within each of the 10 EPA Regional Offices. The ATSDR regional representatives provide the Agency a unique expertise that combines special technical and field experience for their assigned regions.

Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine

The Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine (DTEM) performs an integral function in meeting the ATSDR mandates by participating in policy development for environmental health-related issues and in supporting scientific and technical projects within ATSDR, as well as in other federal agencies. The primary goal of DTEM is to serve as a resource for information and assistance regarding toxic substances in the environment.

ATSDR:

For more information please contact Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
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