



REMOVAL

Bliss Corner Neighborhood Site Dartmouth, MA

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND REMOVAL PROGRAM

responds to chemical, biological and radiological releases and large-scale national emergencies, including homeland security incidents. EPA conducts short term cleanups in the removal program when necessary to protect human health and the environment by either funding response actions directly or overseeing and enforcing actions conducted by potentially responsible parties.



SITE HISTORY

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), since the summer of 2018, has been investigating historic dumping of waste material in the Bliss Corner neighborhood, located in the southern portion of Dartmouth, Massachusetts. In July of 2019, MassDEP began taking soil samples at properties in the neighborhood, sampling a total of 30 properties. In September of 2019, MassDEP requested the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) assistance in sampling additional properties. From July 2020 through June 2021, MassDEP and EPA sampled 46 residential properties in the neighborhood. From this sampling, the main contaminants of concern identified are lead and polychlorinated biphenyls, better known as PCBs.

In a letter dated August 23, 2021, MassDEP requested support for a removal action at five residential properties in the Bliss Corner neighborhood where elevated levels of lead and/or PCBs have been identified in surficial soil which pose a risk to human health and the environment.

NEXT STEPS

The residential properties in the Bliss Corner neighborhood that EPA will be addressing have lead and/or PCBs at levels that pose an imminent threat. All of the properties are occupied and potential exposure to hazardous substances in soil, specifically harmful levels of lead and PCBs, can occur through various common outdoor activities such as gardening, landscaping or small children playing in the soil. Property owners and residents at the properties EPA will be addressing have all been contacted regarding the risks, and EPA is communicating directly with those individuals.

KEY CONTACTS:

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WHAT TO EXPECT

EPA will be on site in the Bliss Corner neighborhood beginning in late October. EPA and its contractors may be wearing protective clothing due to their direct contact with contaminated soil. Heavy equipment will be brought to the properties so EPA can remove contaminated soils and then back-fill the properties with clean soil. EPA will coordinate closely with the property owners regarding the details or work specific to their properties. EPA will continue to update the neighborhood and local officials on progress at the site.