



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
**Department of Toxic Substances Control**

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## **Information about Exide Technologies’ Expanded Area Sampling**

The Department of Toxic Substances Control ordered Exide Technologies to expand soil investigation to what is referred to as the “Expanded Area.” The area covers about two miles of residential properties outside the initial Assessment Areas of East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights and Maywood. A total of 146 residential properties were sampled.

Here is what we know about the contamination, why we believe that an emergency does not exist, the steps we have taken to inform the homeowners, renters and the public about the data, and how we plan to implement any needed cleanup in the community.

First, extensive sampling throughout the “expanded” area did not find any immediate threats to the health of people who live in those neighborhoods. Analysis of more than 8,000 samples did not find any pattern of dangerous levels of lead contamination on properties.

About 99 percent of the samples in the “expanded” area had lead concentrations below 1,000 parts per million. About one percent of the samples had higher lead levels, but these were individual samples from properties. These individual properties and the surrounding neighborhoods did not have a pattern of high-level contamination. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance recommends a cleanup or other steps be taken if an average of 1,200 parts per million of lead is found in the top one inch of soil, and that lead is in an area where children and pregnant women are present.

In one sample we found an elevated level of lead within one inch of the surface. Because this sample was taken in the drip line of the house, we are taking further steps to determine the source of this elevated concentration, and are reaching out to the property owner, as well as coordinating with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

We have been open with the community about this data. The data has been discussed publicly since May when we held a community meeting.

At that time we sent the data to property owners, held two open houses, and began face-to-face meetings to explain the results, which are also posted on our web site. Recognizing the importance of this information, we continue to reach out to residents and property owners.

We continue to evaluate the data to help determine next steps. We are coordinating this review with other agencies, including the Los Angeles Department of Public Health, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, USEPA, and the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment; and the Exide community advisory group as well as the general public. We expect very shortly to have this effort complete so that we can develop a clean-up plan for public review.

Our focus continues to be protecting the public, especially those who are most likely to be affected by lead contamination – our children.



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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov). To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

***The Mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated properties, identifying and promoting safer ingredients in consumer products, and ensuring stewardship through enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.***