

Neighborhood Update

April 2014

Koppers Hazardous Waste Site



Florida Department of Health Updates Residents on Residential Soil Cleanup and Status of Health Reports

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) works to protect health. The U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) provides us with funding to help people who live near hazardous waste sites learn how to stay safe. If we find a health threat, we let those who live near a site know about it right away.

Residential Soil Cleanup Underway

The responsible party, Beazer, has begun cleanup of nearby residential soil. Working under the supervision of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), they plan to finish this cleanup in about six months.

Beazer plans to clean up the yards, moving from north to south. They are starting the cleanup near the intersection of NW 31 Avenue/NW 4th Terrace. From there, they will complete work in block phases down to NW 26th Avenue. They will dig up one foot of soil, replace it with clean fill and replace the yards' landscaping.

During the cleanup, Beazer is wetting the soil both on- and off-site to limit dust. They are also keeping the streets wet. While Beazer takes out soil in yards with dioxins above a certain level, they run four air monitors in front of the homes. These monitors measure particles (dust) found in the air. Beazer tests for dust because the dioxin test takes too long (weeks). By testing for particles, they can ensure that nearby residents are not breathing dust that contains dioxins.

If particle levels reach an action level, the monitors set off an alarm so staff can increase efforts to reduce dust. The action level is set at the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for dust. EPA's Remedial Action Work Plan explains in detail how these monitors work. (To see the work plan, please go to the Alachua County Protection Department's website about the site and scroll down to the report called "Tetra Tech: Remedial Action Workplan: blocks G and H" at: <http://www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/EPD/Pollution/Pages/CabotKoppersSuperfund.aspx>). Beazer is also measuring noise levels during the cleanup.

For a number of days after Beazer replaces the soil with clean fill and puts sod down, they will keep the monitors going. They will include a record of all the dust and noise data in a final report.

If you have any specific questions about the cleanup or schedule, please call Kate Libby at 352-213-0599 or e-mail: koppers.cleanup@tetrattech.com. Ms. Libby is the community coordinator overseeing this project on behalf of Beazer, the responsible party.

Resident Website Created

A website and blog have been created as a resource for the residents affected by the cleanup. Please visit it for the most recent updates about the cleanup and to view maps or documents. You can also get in touch with other residents/property owners about the project via the website: <http://neighborsupport.com/>

There is also a blog link at: <http://neighborsupport.blogspot.com/>

Other Helpful Links:**Alachua County's Cabot/Kopper's Information Website**

<http://www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/EPD/Pollution/Pages/CabotKoppersSuperfund.aspx>

Landscape List Link on City's Website

<http://www.cityofgainesville.org/Portals/0/Cabot%20Koppers/Stephen%20Foster%20Photo%20Plant%20List%20Master.pdf>

General Contact List

<http://www.cityofgainesville.org/CommunityIssues/CabotKoppersSuperfundSite.aspx#contact>

City's Website

<http://www.cityofgainesville.org/CommunityIssues/CabotKoppersSuperfundSite.aspx>

Pet Friendly Hotels

<http://hotels.petswelcome.com/florida/gainesville/>

Pet Boarding/Sitting

http://www.yelp.com/search?cflt=pet_sitting&find_loc=Gainesville,+FL

Ongoing Florida DOH/Alachua County Health Advice Related to the Site

Florida DOH in Alachua County still suggests that people living near the site should:

1. Keep children from playing in the north-south city easement next to the site between NW 26th and 29th Avenues.
2. Mow lawns only when it is not dry and dusty.

Future Health Plans

Florida DOH in Alachua County will:

- Let people know when a report on testing of indoor dust of nearby homes for dioxins is final.
- Solicit public comment on a draft report on the potential health threat from vapor intrusion into buildings over the former Cabot Carbon portion of the site.
- Provide a review of results of June and October 2012 off-site soil tests.
- Keep people up-to-date on any new findings.

More about the Koppers Site

The site is at 200 N.W. 23rd Avenue west of North Main Street. From 1916 to 2009, the site owners treated wood to stop rot. Over the years, waste leaked into soil and groundwater. In 1984, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added the site to the National Priorities List (NPL). People who live west of the site have health concerns.

See all the health reports written about the Koppers site at:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/chdAlachua/koppers.html>

Or call for a copy toll-free at:
877-798-2772

Or by email:

PHToxicology@FLHealth.gov

Since 1989, the Florida DOH and ATSDR have:

- Advised the posting of warning signs where needed.
- Asked EPA to do more testing on- and off-site.
- Found the site is a likely health risk.
- Reviewed tests of soil, groundwater, and creek beds.
- Warned people to keep off the site.
- Written 10 reports in response to health concerns.

For More Details

About health or any Florida DOH health report about Koppers:

- Randy Merchant (toll-free): 1-877-798-2772
- Anthony Dennis: 352-334-7930

About cleanup of the site or dust testing: Scott Miller, U.S. EPA: U.S. EPA: 404-562-9120