



Change in Blood Lead Testing in 2017 Helps Health District Identify Risks

To better understand how summer recreational exposures are impacting blood lead levels in Silver Valley children, last year the Panhandle Health District conducted their annual summer screenings in August, one month later than previous years. PHD conducts these screenings every year to identify children who warrant follow up by PHD to reduce exposures.

Blood lead levels in children in the Valley generally peak in late summer and early fall, then decline during the winter. This is often because children play outside more in the summer, increasing their contact with lead-contaminated soils. The hotter, drier, dustier conditions in late summer may also increase exposures. By conducting the testing one month later, toward the end of summer, PHD can get a better sense of how summertime exposures are affecting blood lead levels and how to help children and families prevent exposure to lead-contaminated soils in the area.

In 2017, the average blood lead for children in Box communities was 3.5 micrograms per deciliter, up from 3.2 micrograms per deciliter in 2016. In Basin communities, the average blood lead was 4.3 micrograms per deciliter, up from 3.2 micrograms per deciliter in 2016. **These levels still fall below the CDC value of 5 micrograms per deciliter** and blood lead levels in both the Box and Basin have dropped dramatically from the levels measured before cleanup of mine waste began in the area more than 20 years ago.

The Health District believes that the later screening contributed to the increases in 2017. In addition, above-average temperatures and below-average rainfall increased dusty conditions in recreational areas, and people may have spent more time at un-remediated areas along the banks of the Coeur d’Alene River, especially the South Fork.

The Health District plans to conduct this summer’s blood lead screening in August again to continue to monitor how seasonal influences are contributing to blood lead levels. PHD will also be taking these additional steps over the next few months:

- Post updated health signs with photos and historical and health information.
- Distribute a house dust brochure to help people identify sources of lead in homes.
- Increase educational presentations in area schools.
- Host a “pediatric lead exposure” seminar for medical professionals, to raise awareness about lead exposure.
- Continue to offer Lead Health Intervention Program services to help families with children who have elevated blood lead levels. The program helps find possible sources of lead in homes, as well as exposures through activities or hobbies, and recommends ways to reduce risks.

CONTACT: **Andy Helkey**, Panhandle Health District • 208-783-0707 • ahelkey@phd1.idaho.gov

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New Signs Coming to Basin Recreational Areas

Coming this spring and summer, you may see some new signs in popular recreational areas across the Superfund site. The signs remind people to take important steps to reduce exposure to lead and other harmful metals while recreating. These areas include beaches along the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, swimming holes in the river or local lakes, or old mine sites where people drive ATVs. The signs will be moveable, so they can be placed in different areas as new recreational sites are identified.

CONTACT: **Panhandle Health District** • (208) 783-0707
or visit www.deq.idaho.gov/playclean



CDA Basin Cleanup Makes Superfund Redevelopment Focus List



EPA recently released its initial list of Superfund National Priorities List sites with the greatest expected redevelopment and commercial potential. The Bunker Hill Superfund Site, also called the Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup, was one of the four listed sites in the Pacific Northwest. Superfund sites on the list have significant redevelopment potential based on previous outside interest, access to transportation corridors, land values, and other critical development drivers. Previous successful commercial redevelopment projects at Bunker Hill include Silver Mountain Resort, Walmart, and O'Reilly Auto Parts, as well as residential apartments and health care buildings. Recreational developments like the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes and Galena Ridge Golf Course have also created successful reuse of remediated properties at the site. A one-page fact sheet discusses redevelopment in the area. Find "Sites in Reuse: Silver Valley Former Mining Properties" online at <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/HQ/197138.pdf>.

CONTACT: **Kira Lynch**, EPA • 206-553-2144 • 800-424-4372, ext. 2144 • lynch.kira@epa.gov

Basin Yards Cleanup Protects People's Health

Since 2002, over 3,500 properties in the Upper and Lower Basin have been cleaned up by the Basin Property Remediation Program. In 2018, the Coeur d'Alene Work Trust will continue contacting residential and commercial property owners to seek participation in the program. Property cleanups protect people's health by reducing exposure to lead and other harmful metals. During a property remediation, generally, the top 6-12 inches of contaminated soil is removed, and replaced with clean soil. If you believe your property may be eligible and you'd like to have it sampled for mining-related metals, please contact:

IDEQ • 208-783-5781 or **Alan Davis**, Trust • 208-783-0222



Construction Begins: Treatment Plant Upgrades, Groundwater System



Design of the Bunker Hill Central Treatment Plant Upgrade and Groundwater Collection System is almost done. Construction activities at the site began in March. Early this year, workers will bring in fill to consolidate soils at the site where heavy structures will be built this summer. Along the I-90 corridor, removal of billboards will start in April. The trail along the Central Impoundment Area (CIA) will be closed from April 2, 2018 until construction of the groundwater collection system along I-90 is complete in November 2019. Activities to construct a new sludge holding area on top of the CIA will start this April. We expect construction to be done in 2021.

When the construction is complete, there will be far less metals pollution going into the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River.

CONTACT: **Kim Prestbo**, EPA • 206-553-0239 • 800-424-4372, ext. 0239 • prestbo.kim@epa.gov

2018 Paved Roadway Progress

The Paved Roads remediation program continues to gain traction in both the Box and Basin. The Paved Roads Program has funded over \$30 million in local paved roads reconstruction projects through 2017. Of about 600 eligible segments in the program, 437 have been completed so far. The work continues to be coordinated with other utility and infrastructure improvements. Projects have been combined with water, sewer, and drainage infrastructure. Over \$8 million of paved roads work is planned for 2018 (this includes carry-over work in Kellogg, Wallace, and Shoshone County):

- Mullan – 8th Street is the last remaining eligible road, and will be completed in coordination with the Tiger Creek Remedy Protection Project.
- Wallace – Approximately \$600,000 planned for 2018.
- Shoshone County – Approximately \$3 million planned for 2018 including Box and Basin.
- Osburn – Approximately \$500,000 planned for 2018.
- Kellogg – Approximately \$4 million planned for 2018.



The roads programs for Wardner, Smelterville and the Eastside Highway District have been completed.

CONTACT: **Craig Cameron**, EPA • 509-376-8665 • cameron.craig@epa.gov

Limited Use Repositories Update



Over 21,000 cubic yards of road waste have gone to the Limited Use Repository in Government Gulch. About 14,700 cubic yards of Institutional Controls Program waste from the infrastructure work have gone to the Community Fill Plan facility next to the LUR. Limited Use Repositories accept waste only from replacement of local paved roads under the Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup. It is expected that the Government Gulch LUR will receive about 30,000 cubic yards and the CFP will take about 25,000 cubic yards this field season. Areas of the CFP and LUR in Government Gulch

will be capped with clean soil as they are filled up to the design elevation. The final grading and capping of the site will be configured to promote future development on the property along Government Gulch Road.

In the Basin, EPA expects the Zanetti Yard LUR in Osburn and the Shoshone County Transfer Station LUR near Kellogg to reach capacity during this field season (28,500 and 22,240 cubic yards, respectively). Once the LURs are closed, they will provide new level ground to support redevelopment. The East Osburn LUR is already closed and capped, and is available for redevelopment or use by the property owner.

Keeping Cleaned-Up Areas Clean: Remedy Protection

In 2018, remedy protection work will continue with work to (1) upgrade the inlet structure on Printers Creek in Wallace, (2) increase the capacity of Rosebud Creek in Osburn, and (3) start the first phase of the Tiger Creek project in Mullan. The Tiger Creek project will include installation of a subsurface storm water pipe beneath 8th Street. The pipe will capture precipitation runoff and carry Tiger Creek through Mullan. These improvements will help protect people and the environment by reducing erosion and recontamination from storm water runoff, tributary flooding, and heavy rain and snowfall.



CONTACT: **Anne McCauley**, EPA • 206-553-4689 • 800-424-4372, ext. 4689 • mccauley.anne@epa.gov

Mullan ICP Disposal Station Closes, New Transfer Station Available



In 2017, the Coeur d'Alene Work Trust closed out the Mullan Institutional Controls Program (ICP) disposal site (MIDS). It had filled up. Since 2007, the MIDS operated under an agreement with the City of Mullan and Panhandle Health District. In that time, about 60,000 cubic yards of ICP waste-related materials have been placed and managed onsite to keep contaminated materials away from people and the environment. The site was graded, compacted, and an ICP-compliant barrier was established. In addition, new fencing, signage, and stormwater controls were installed.

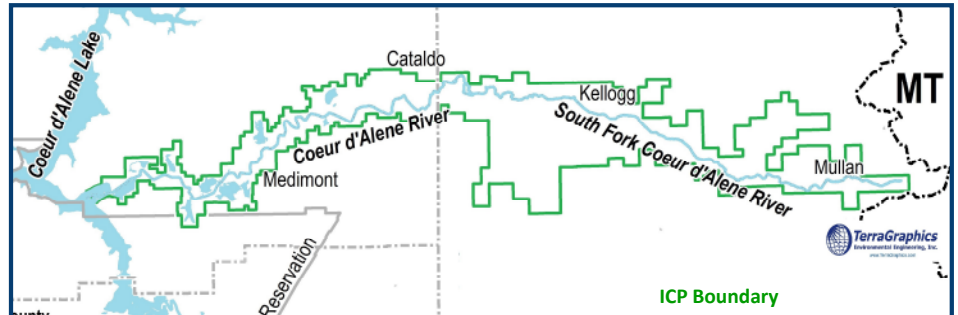
To allow Mullan residents to continue conveniently disposing of ICP waste, the Trust built a transfer station on part of the property. The new transfer station will accept contaminated soils, materials with contaminated soils adhered to them, and other approved ICP waste. The remaining portions of the property will be managed by the City of Mullan.

CONTACT: **Andy Helkey**, PHD • 208-783-0707 • ahelkey@phd1.idaho.gov

What is the Institutional Controls Program?

At the Bunker Hill site, activity and use limitations that EPA calls “institutional controls” are in place. Institutional controls play an important role in site remedies because they reduce exposure to contamination. The Panhandle Health District manages the Institutional Controls Program. The ICP is a locally-enforced set of regulations that ensure clean soil and other barriers placed over contamination remain protective of public health. Permits are needed for many types of indoor and outdoor construction activities. Permits and consultations are free. You must comply with the ICP before digging on your property or starting some interior projects.

CONTACT: PHD • 208-783-0707.



Basin Natural Resources Restoration Plan Published

EPA, at the request of the Coeur d'Alene Basin Natural Resource Trustees (Restoration Partnership), published the Notice of Availability of the final Restoration Plan and Environmental Impact Statement in the [Federal Register](#). Find the NOA at <https://go.usa.gov/xntyB>. The Restoration Partnership is a collaborative effort comprising the Coeur d'Alene Basin Natural Resource Trustees. The Trustees are the U.S. Department of the Interior, represented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management; the Coeur d'Alene Tribe; the U.S. Department of Agriculture, represented by the U.S. Forest Service; and the State of Idaho, represented by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. The Partnership's primary mission is to recover the natural resources that were injured by releases of mine waste contamination, and compensate for lost human use services of those resources by carrying out projects under the Restoration Plan.



Visit the Restoration Partnership at www.restorationpartnership.org to find the EIS and learn more.

CONTACT: Jeff Johnson, USFS • 208-765-7313 • jkjohnson@fs.fed.us

Public Welcome: Basin Commission Meetings

Everyone is welcome to attend the quarterly meetings of the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission.

Meetings are currently set for:

- May 23 in Coeur d'Alene
- August 15 in Wallace, including a public tour of select cleanup projects
- November 7 in Spokane Valley

Visit www.basincommission.com for specific times, locations, and updates.

CONTACT: Terry Harwood, BEIPC Executive Director • 208-783-2528 • terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov





New Website for CDA Basin Cleanup

EPA has a new website for the Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup, also known as the Bunker Hill Superfund Site. Check it out at www.epa.gov/superfund/bunker-hill. You can find site contacts, information on cleanup activities, technical documents, opportunities to get involved, and more. We are still building the site, so if you cannot find what you're looking for, let us know.

CONTACT: **Debra Sherbina**, Community Involvement Coordinator, EPA • 206-553-0247
 • 800-424-4372, ext. 0247 • sherbina.debra@epa.gov

Comings and Goings

Goodbye Rob, Welcome Dana!

In April, **Rob Hanson** is retiring from his position as IDEQ's Environmental Cleanup Unit Manager, Waste Management and Remediation Division. Please join us in honoring his 29 years of service!

The Environmental Cleanup Unit includes the Bunker Hill Superfund Site (also called the Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup), the mine waste program, general remediation program, voluntary cleanup program, defense site remediation program, and the multi-sites Superfund sites. Rob has contributed so much over the years to numerous projects.

His leadership and wry sense of humor will be missed. Rob says, "It has been a privilege to work on Bunker Hill. I have appreciated working with the communities and agency partners to figure out how to solve complex problems to help improve people's health and the environment, and support a healthy economy in the Silver Valley. I'll always look at the Silver Valley as my second Idaho home."

Rob plans to be active in his community through volunteering, catching up on reading, honing his Spanish, riding his bike, skiing, running, staying out of trouble, and watching the progress of the cleanup in the Silver Valley.

We are pleased that **Dana Swift** has accepted the offer to replace Rob as the Environmental Cleanup Unit Manager. Dana officially started in this new capacity in late February, and will have eight weeks of overlap with Rob before his departure. Dana has over 17 years of experience working on environmental investigation and cleanup activities, including the last five years with IDEQ working on projects for the Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup and other abandoned mine sites throughout Idaho. She can be reached at 208-373-0296 or dana.swift@deq.idaho.gov.

Welcome, Dana!



Want Timely Updates? Visit us on Facebook!



One of the best ways to stay up-to-date on the cleanup work is to sign up for our Facebook page. We invite you to check it out!

<https://www.facebook.com/CDAbasin>

Documents

North Idaho College Library

Molstead Library
1000 Garden Avenue – Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-769-3355

Wallace Public Library

415 River Street – Wallace, ID 83873
208-752-4571

Spokane Public Library

906 West Main Avenue – Spokane, WA 99201
509-444-5336

EPA Field Office

1910 Northwest Boulevard, Suite 208
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-664-4588

EPA Seattle Office

Superfund Record Center
1200 Sixth Avenue – Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-4494 or 800-424-4372

St. Maries Library

822 W. College Avenue – St. Maries, ID 83861
208-245-3732

Kellogg Public Library

16 West Market Avenue – Kellogg, ID 83837
208-786-7231

Opportunities to Get Involved

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Terry Harwood

208-783-2528

<http://www.basincommission.com>

Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC)

CHAIR:

Jerry Boyd

509-220-1453

<http://www.basincommission.com/cc.asp>

The Basin Bulletin is published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency three times a year. The Basin Bulletin offers updates on the Superfund cleanup in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. For mailing list changes, to send comments on this newsletter, contact the editors, or submit articles for consideration, contact Debra Sherbina as noted. Mention of trade names, products, or services does not convey, and should not be interpreted as conveying, official EPA approval, endorsement, or recommendation.

Alternative formats are available.

For reasonable accommodation, please call

Debra Sherbina at 206-553-0247.

TTY users, please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.



EPA Community Involvement Contact

Debra Sherbina

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***Learn More About the
Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup
on the Web***

www.epa.gov/superfund/bunker-hill

