



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

***September 2015 Update:
Cleanup and Testing in Areas
Surrounding the Exide Facility***

Background

- The Exide Technologies facility, located in the City of Vernon, recycled lead from used automotive batteries and other sources. The facility has not been in operation since March 2014.
- In February 2015, DTSC informed Exide that it would not approve a permit for the facility, and on March 12, required the facility to close.
- DTSC ordered Exide to sample and clean up the yards of two residential neighborhoods, which include portions of Boyle Heights, Maywood and East Los Angeles. These areas are referred to as the “Initial Assessment Area”. 153 of the 219 residential properties have been cleaned up as of August 2015.
- DTSC also ordered Exide to expand its soil investigation to include residences in an area that is now referred to as the “Expanded Area,” as well as additional non-residential samples to determine the extent of lead contamination.

Status of Cleanup and Testing

DTSC recently announced preliminary results from the soil investigation, which show that properties located between 1.3 and 1.7 miles away from the facility may potentially be affected by Exide’s lead contamination. This area includes 5,000 to 10,000 residential properties. Additional testing is needed to identify which of these properties may be affected.

At this time, DTSC has secured \$7 million to begin cleanup efforts as well as continue testing of additional properties to determine where cleanup is needed. We are in the process of getting more funds.

Testing is necessary to:

- 1) Identify and prioritize those properties with the greatest risk for lead exposure, and ensure priority cleanup;
- 2) Hold Exide accountable for its lead contamination; and
- 3) Identify and pursue others who may be responsible for the lead contamination.

Next Steps

The cleanup and testing plan will follow two parallel processes. The first will put funding in place to identify and assist in the earliest action cleanup of properties with the greatest risk of exposure to lead. The second process will develop and implement a longer term plan to address other properties identified for testing and cleanup.

- The next stage of testing will include properties to the east of the Exide facility, including the City of Commerce and other areas.
- DTSC plans to present a Draft Testing Plan to the Exide Technologies Advisory Group in September/October 2015. After gathering input from the Advisory Group, members of the community and other agencies, DTSC will finalize the plan and begin testing.
- DTSC will also collaborate with other federal, state and local agencies to leverage expertise and resources to recover the costs of the cleanup which may also involve the remediation of lead based paint.
- The next Advisory Group meeting will take place in September/October, date and location to be announced.

Blood Lead Testing Available

If you are concerned that you or your family may be exposed to lead from any source of contamination, you may sign up for a free and confidential blood lead screening coordinated by the LA County Department of Public Health. Most children who have lead poisoning do not look or act sick. The only way to know if your child is affected is through a blood lead screening. Your child may have received a blood lead screening during his/her last visit to a healthcare provider. You may consult your healthcare provider to find out more.

- To set up a free blood lead screening, coordinated by the LA County Department of Public Health, call (844) 888-2290, Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. For more information regarding this program refer to the following webpage: <http://www.bloodleadtesting.com/>.

Common Practices to Minimize Your Family's Exposure to Lead

- Cover areas of bare soil (dirt)
- Remove shoes before going into homes
- Wash hands before eating
- Washing fruits and vegetables from the garden
- Avoid digging in dirt where lead may be present

For more information about minimizing exposure to lead, contact the California Department of Public Health www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/clppb, or the LA Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/lead/>, 1-800-LA-4-LEAD.

Additional Information on Exide Technologies

Please visit DTSC's website:

<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Projects/UpdateExideSuspension.cfm>,
or contact Mary Su Maurer, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at Mary.Maurer@dtsc.ca.gov, 1-844-225-3887.