



**ATSDR**  
AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES  
AND DISEASE REGISTRY

# Your Guide to the Omaha Lead Superfund Site

*Protect your family and  
yourself from lead in soil!*



**Winter  
2008/2009**



**Provided by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - R7  
and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)**

## Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - R7 and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) are working with groups in eastern Omaha to address unsafe levels of lead in soil.

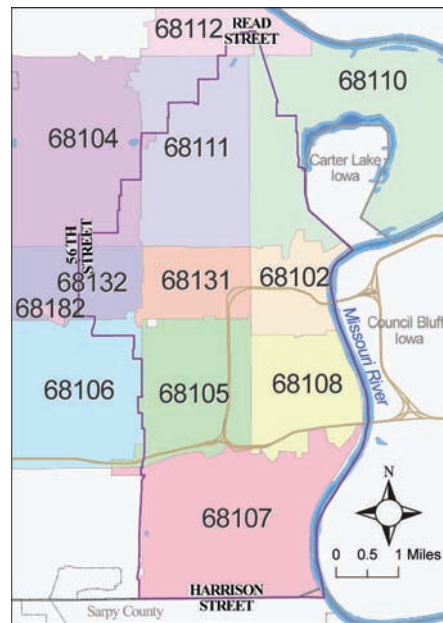
### EPA is:

- sampling yards, cleaning up soil with unsafe levels of lead, putting clean soil in yards and sodding yards to replace grass.
- giving money to many Omaha organizations so they can teach people about the dangers of lead.

### ATSDR is:

- partnering with community groups to teach people about lead poisoning.

Some other ways people can be exposed to lead are from lead-based paint, lead-glazed pottery, toys or other items made with lead, and some foods. EPA and ATSDR are working with agencies and local groups to find ways to protect people from lead from these sources.



**Omaha Lead Site Area**

## Omaha Lead Site Background

The Omaha Lead Site is the area of eastern Omaha where there are many yards that have unsafe levels of lead in them that came from historic industrial air emissions. Lead in yards might have also come from loose and flaking lead-based house paint, auto exhaust and industrial emissions. EPA is cleaning up yards that are contaminated with lead from industrial emissions.

The lead was blown in many directions by the wind and fell to the ground in the area which is now the Omaha Lead Site. Houses, apartments, child care centers, schools, parks and other residential properties are in the site. EPA has been cleaning up yards with unsafe levels of lead since 1999.

EPA was contacted by the Omaha City Council in 1998 due to a concern about the number of children who had high levels of lead in their blood. EPA has been cleaning up yards with unsafe lead levels since 1999.

## Why worry about lead?

Children can get lead from soil into their bodies by putting their hands or toys in their mouths after touching the soil. Too much lead can build up in children's bodies and can cause lead poisoning.



- **Most children with lead poisoning do not look or act sick.**
- Lead poisoning is most likely to affect children 6 years old and younger.
- The only way to know if your children have lead poisoning is to have them tested every year from 1 through 6 years old.
- Call your health care provider or the Douglas County Health Department to get your child tested.

### Possible signs of lead poisoning:

- Tiredness or restlessness
- Headaches
- Stomachache or vomiting
- Constipation
- Irritability

### Lead poisoning can cause:

- Learning problems
- Behavior problems
- Hearing problems
- Lower IQ
- Kidney damage

## What is EPA doing in Omaha to protect you from lead in soil?

### Step 1 Soil Sampling



EPA is testing soil in yards to see if they have unsafe levels of lead.

### Step 2 Excavation



EPA is digging up soil that has unsafe levels of lead and hauling it away.

### Step 3 Replacing soil and grass



EPA is putting in clean soil and sodding yards to replace grass.

## Where are we now?

### EPA:

- If you know of residential yards that have not been tested for lead, please tell residents and/or owners that EPA is testing yards to protect them and their families from lead in soil. Tell them to call the EPA public information centers to get their yards tested for lead (see back of this flier).
- If you have questions about lead in soil, please call the EPA public information centers.
- If your yard has unsafe levels of lead, EPA will contact you about testing exterior paint and interior dust for lead to see if additional cleanup is needed.

**All testing and cleanup actions are paid for by EPA and are free to residents.**

### National Centers for Environmental Health (NCEH) and ATSDR:

- NCEH and ATSDR are giving money to the Douglas County Health Department to get more children tested for lead poisoning.
- ATSDR is working with the Community Advisory Group (CAG), Health Education Committee, to help people take steps to prevent lead poisoning.

## EPA and ATSDR are working with local groups to get lead information to you.



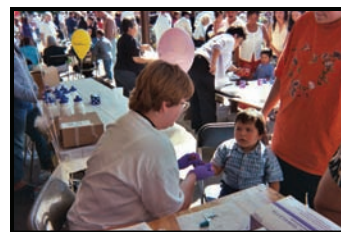
EPA Public Information Center, North location



EPA Public Information Center, South Location

### Community Partners

- Community Advisory Group (CAG)
- Douglas County Health Department
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Extension in Douglas/Sarpy Counties
- City of Omaha
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance (OHKA)
- Omaha Public Schools
- Lead Safe Omaha Coalition (LSOC)
- Neighborhood Associations
- Omaha Children's Museum
- Chicano Awareness Center
- One World Community Health Center
- Charles Drew Health Center
- Sisters Together



Douglas County Health Department



UNL - Extension - Douglas and Sarpy Counties

# Protect yourself and your family from lead in soil!

Call today to get more information about the  
Omaha Lead Site and lead poisoning.

## Yard and soil information

- **EPA South Omaha Public Information Center**  
(402) 731-3045  
Soil testing and soil test results in the Superfund area.
- **EPA North Omaha Public Information Center**  
(402) 991-9583  
Soil testing and soil test results in the Superfund area.

- **Douglas County Health Department Lead Program**  
(402) 444-7825 en Espanol (402) 444-1881  
Questions about childhood lead poisoning and  
childhood blood lead testing, home inspections and  
child case management.
- **ATSDR Regional Office, Kansas City, Kansas**  
(913) 551-1312  
Questions about lead poisoning and steps to reduce lead  
exposure.

## Health Information

## General Information

- **Lead Resource Hotline for Omaha**  
1-877-LEAD-411 (1-877-532-3411)
- **University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in  
Douglas/Sarpy Counties**  
(402) 444-7804  
How to manage your environment to reduce  
lead exposure
- **City of Omaha Housing and Community Development**  
(402) 444-7903 en Espanol (402) 444-5555
- **Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance**  
(402) 561-7596  
[www.omahahealthykids.org](http://www.omahahealthykids.org)
- **Lead Safe Omaha Coalition**  
(402) 451-3730
- **Omaha Lead Site Community Advisory Group**  
[www.olscag.com](http://www.olscag.com)

**Get your child tested for lead poisoning today!**  
Call your health care provider or the Douglas County Health Department  
to get children 6 years old and younger tested.