



## Region 7

Iowa  
Kansas  
Missouri  
Nebraska

## Fact Sheet

April 2004

---

# Omaha Lead Superfund Site Update

## Omaha, Nebraska

---

### INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 7 has been meeting with Omaha citizens every two weeks since February in an effort to address concerns about residential soil contamination and explain the Superfund process. This effort will continue in the hope that communication is wide-spread throughout all sectors of the community. Additionally, EPA will attempt to use diverse communication networks such as television and radio, along with mailings and newspaper announcements to respond to citizen inquiries and concerns.

### BACKGROUND

The Omaha Lead site includes surface soils present at residential properties, child care facilities, schools, and other residential-type properties in Eastern Omaha which is located in Douglas County, Nebraska. The total area of the Omaha Lead site is approximately 8,840 acres, where an estimated 65,615 residents are located. The site boundaries run from Ames Avenue on the north to "L" Street on the south and 45<sup>th</sup> Street on the west to the Missouri River on the east. These boundaries are used as guidelines only and may expand if EPA deems that additional properties require sampling.

In 1998, the Omaha City Council solicited assistance from EPA in addressing problems with lead contamination in the Omaha area, prompted by cleanup activities at the Asarco facility. Asarco was a lead-refining plant which operated

from the early 1870s until 1997 and was located on approximately 23 acres on the west bank of the Missouri River in downtown Omaha. During the operational period, lead and other heavy metals were emitted into the atmosphere through smoke stacks. The pollutants were transported downwind in various directions and deposited on the ground.

### CURRENT PROCESSES

The EPA is currently sampling yards in eastern Omaha for lead. To date, 15,500 properties have been sampled, with an estimated 12,000 more to be sampled in 2004. EPA has cleaned up more than 403 properties which include residences where children with elevated blood lead levels live, child care centers, and properties that have lead concentrations above 1,200 parts per million. EPA is coordinating the completion of site supporting documents including: the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, the site Risk Assessment Report, the Community Involvement Plan and the site repository inventory.

EPA will participate in the following availability sessions to discuss lead contamination and encourages the public to attend::

**When:** Tuesday, April 13, 2004  
**Where:** Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church Hall  
23<sup>rd</sup> & "O" Street  
Omaha, Nebraska  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
(A translator will be present)

**AND**

**When:** Thursday, April 29, 2004  
**Where:** Omaha South High School  
4519 South 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, Nebraska  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
(This meeting is being sponsored by Omaha's Community Advisory Group and EPA will be there for an information exchange).

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you live in Douglas County and suspect that someone in your home has elevated lead levels in his/her body, EPA recommends that you contact the Douglas County Health Department at: (402) 444-7489. Free lead testing is available for any child between the ages of 6 months and 6 years old.

**REPOSITORY INFORMATION**

The following repositories have been set up for citizens' information:

**Omaha Public Library**  
W. Dale Clark Main Library  
215 South 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, Nebraska  
(402) 444-4800

**South Omaha Library**  
2202 M. Street  
Omaha, Nebraska  
(402) 444-4850

**Washington Branch Library**  
2816 Ames Avenue  
Omaha, Nebraska  
(402) 444-4849

The Administrative Record File is also housed at EPA's Records Center:

U.S. EPA - Region 7  
901 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas  
Toll free 1-800-223-0425

If you have questions about this fact sheet, the upcoming availability sessions, or the Omaha Lead Site in general, please contact:

**Debbie Kring**  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
Office of External Programs  
U.S. EPA - Region 7  
901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
Phone: 913-551-7003 or  
Toll Free: 1-800-223-0425

**OR**

**Don Bahnke**  
Project Manager  
Superfund Division  
U.S. EPA - Region 7  
901 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
Phone: 913-551-7747

**Bryant Burnett**  
Project Manager  
Superfund Division  
U.S. EPA - Region 7  
901 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
Phone: 913-551-7742