



# EPA Asking for Residents' Help With Lead Cleanup

**Commodity Metals Site**  
Hamtramck, Michigan

September 2006

## Contact information

For questions, comments or additional information about the lead sampling in neighborhoods near the Commodity Metals site you can contact these EPA representatives:

### Dave Novak

EPA Community  
Involvement Coordinator  
EPA Region 5 Chicago office  
Toll free: (800) 621-8431 Ext.  
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### James Justice

EPA On-Scene Coordinator  
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### Jeff Kimble

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**Project Offices** (located in trailer at corner of Grand Haven and Commor streets): (313) 865-9934

## Document file

Official documents and records about the Commodity Metals site and neighborhood lead contamination are available for review at the Hamtramck Public Library, 2360 Caniff St.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this fall is working on removing and replacing contaminated soil containing high lead levels from neighborhoods near a former smelter in Hamtramck. The work is currently being done on about 76 properties between Caniff and Commor streets on Grand Haven, Dyar, Dequindre, Nagel, St. Aubin and Lumpkin streets. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality tested soil in the area in 2003 and 2004 and found high lead levels. MDEQ asked for EPA's assistance in removing and replacing the contaminated soil. These current properties are expected to be finished this fall with additional work to be done next spring and summer.

Before the additional work can be completed, however, EPA and MDEQ need help from residents within the project area (*see map back page*). Written permission is needed from the property owners before any tests or soil removal can be done. Samples are needed from around 150 yards in the area.

Taking care of the lead contamination is important. If the tested yards are found to contain excessive lead levels then EPA will remove the contamination and replace it with clean soil. Sampling and soil removal if necessary will be done **at no cost** to property owners. Contractors are replacing contaminated soil with clean dirt and returning the yards to near-original condition.

Lead pollution can be dangerous and affects children and pregnant women the most. High levels of lead in the blood of children or unborn babies can lead to learning and behavior problems as well as lower IQs. Neighborhood children could be exposed to high levels of lead by playing in bare spots and accidentally swallowing contaminated dirt. Children and adults can also breathe lead-contaminated dust. Much of the soil in the heavily industrialized United States contains lead, but EPA is looking for excessively high levels of the metal in the Hamtramck neighborhoods. Lead smelters that operated years ago probably released lead-contaminated particles that were blown by the wind and settled on nearby yards.

If the property where you live is targeted for sampling, EPA asks for your help in signing the access agreement or getting your landlord to sign the form. EPA representatives will be in the neighborhood throughout October and November. Signed access agreements can be dropped off at the EPA mailbox located near the project trailer at the corner of Commor and Grand Haven streets. You may also contact EPA representatives (*see left-hand column*) to have signed forms picked up or for more information, questions or comments.

Contaminated soil removed from the yards is disposed of at licensed landfills in the area. Soil is not dug up unless lead levels are found to be too high to be safe.



# Commodity Metals Site Boundaries

