



What You Can Expect From ATSDR

What Is ATSDR?

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is a federal public health agency in Atlanta, Georgia. The agency's mission is **to serve the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions, and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and disease related to toxic substances.** ATSDR identifies communities where people might be exposed to hazardous substances in the environment. The agency also determines how hazardous a site is and recommends actions that need to be taken to safeguard the health of community residents. ATSDR works with communities, environmental groups, tribal governments, and local, state, and other federal agencies to protect the public health.

What Will ATSDR Do in Your Community?

- Involve communities and tribes when responding to their environmental public health concerns.
- Be independent, be objective, and make public health decisions based on current available science.
- Review and assess environmental, health, and community information and data.
- Contact the relevant federal, tribal, state, and local health and environmental agencies, and always the communities, while investigating a hazardous waste site or release.
- Collect additional data through exposure investigations, limited and targeted environmental sampling, and health studies to assess health impacts.
- Provide and explain the results of our evaluations, medical consultations, and investigations to communities and tribes.
- Provide environmental health education for health care providers, communities, and tribes.

- Provide emergency response assistance for acute hazardous materials incidents.
- Refer individuals to specialists in environmental medicine for health care followup.
- Incorporate in final ATSDR documents comments received from the public on draft documents.
- Refer public health issues or problems to other federal, tribal, state, or local governmental entities when they do not fall within ATSDR's areas of responsibility.

What Will ATSDR Not Do in Your Community?

- Conduct large-scale site- or release-related environmental sampling. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state environmental agencies are responsible for these sampling activities.
- Enforce regulations. ATSDR is an advisory, nonregulatory public health agency.
- Provide medical treatment and health care services.

If you would like additional information, contact the ATSDR Community Involvement Team:

Call: 1-888-42-ATSDR (toll-free)
that is, 1-888-422-8737

E-mail: atsdric@cdc.gov

Visit: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>

Write:
Community Involvement Team
Division of Health Assessment and
Consultation, ATSDR
Mail Stop E-56
1600 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30333