

**United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Cabot-Koppers Superfund Site, Gainesville, FL**

**Offsite Indoor Dioxin Dust Testing Factsheet  
January 2012**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the status of the Cabot-Koppers Superfund site clean-up?** The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has approved a clean-up plan for the Koppers portion of the Cabot-Koppers Superfund site located on NW 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave near N. Main St. in the City of Gainesville. As part of the clean-up plan, soils contaminated with toxic chemicals called dioxins at levels above State of Florida standards will be removed from residential and commercial properties near the Koppers site.

**What is the purpose of the Indoor Dioxin Dust study?** Residents near the Koppers Superfund site have expressed concern that dioxins may be present not only in soils but also in dust in their homes. The dust study is designed to measure the levels of dioxins and related chemicals in house dust and to determine if possible the source or sources of these chemicals.

**Does receiving a letter from USEPA soliciting my participation in the Indoor Dust Study mean that my house is contaminated with dioxins?** No. With the assistance of a team of local technical experts and environmental officials, the USEPA has selected as study areas for comparison one neighborhood, near the Koppers site, where levels of soil dioxins above state standards have been measured, and two “background” neighborhoods, distant from the site, where measured soil dioxins levels are not above state standards. Every resident within these neighborhoods received a letter soliciting participation. There is no presumption going in that the indoor dust in any of these houses is contaminated.

**Could dioxins come from sources other than the Superfund site?** Yes. Dioxins and related chemicals are found literally everywhere in the world, but nearly always in very low amounts which don't constitute a human health hazard. Dioxins and related chemicals may arise in small amounts from a variety of sources including burning wood in fireplaces, cooking with charcoal, house furnishings, and electronics.

**How will the results of the study be used?** Results from the dust study will help in assessing whether any clean-up of surfaces inside homes may be warranted.

**Why will samples be taken from homes located at least two miles from the site?** Chemicals found in homes near the site will be compared with chemicals found in “background” homes well removed from the site. Including the “background” homes will help us provide better health and safety information to the entire Gainesville community (e.g. by providing recommendations for reducing potential exposures).

**Why do the Survey Questions ask about carpeting, TVs and computers and how we clean our floors?** Furnishings and electronics may not emit dioxins but they may contain substances that are similar to dioxins. The USEPA is planning to test the dust with a number of methods, and knowing more about the contents of the tested houses will help interpret the results.

**If I submit a signed Access Authorization, will my home be included in the testing?** Not necessarily. Only 15 homes near the site and 15 in “background” areas will be tested. From those homeowners offering to participate in the study, we will match 15 homes from each area on the basis of similar characteristics. The goal is to balance homes near the site and “background” homes that share similar characteristics.

**How will the sampling be performed and by whom?** Dust samples will be vacuumed from living spaces by qualified personnel under the direction of USEPA and analyzed using USEPA protocols, with local oversight and review.

**If I participate will the test results on my home be confidential?** If your home is selected for testing, you will be provided with the results. While USEPA does not plan on making test results which can be identified with specific individual home addresses public, it is possible that all testing data may be obtained by interested parties through public records laws.

**Contact information:**

For more information about the offsite Indoor Dioxin Dust Testing plan, contact,

Scott Miller  
USEPA Region 4  
Atlanta, GA  
(404) 562-9120

Dr. John Mousa,  
Alachua County Environmental Protection Department  
(352)264-6805

Anthony Dennis,  
Alachua County Health Department  
(352) 334-7931

Additional information concerning the proposed study may also be found at the following websites:

Alachua County Environmental Protection Department  
<http://www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/EPD/Pages/EPD.aspx>

Alachua County Health Department  
<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/chdalachua/index.htm>

City of Gainesville  
<http://www.cityofgainesville.org/GOVERNMENT/MayorCityCommission/CommunityIssues/ta/bid/670/Default.aspx>