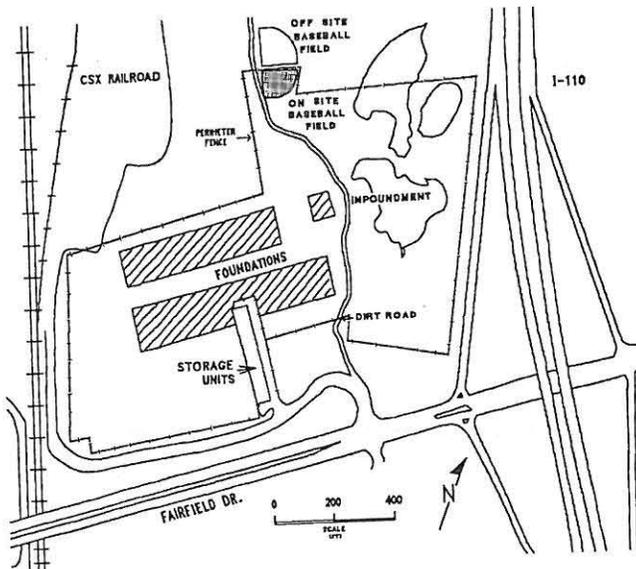


Agrico Chemical Superfund Site: Your Health Concerns



This year, the State Health Office (HRS) wrote a health assessment on Agrico Chemical. Agrico Chemical is a Superfund hazardous waste site in Pensacola, Florida. It is on the northwest corner of the intersection of Interstate 110 and Fairfield Drive. HRS found that children using the on-site south baseball field were exposed to chemical called "fluoride." The fluoride levels on the ball field may have caused "mottling" of childrens' teeth. The baseball field was used from the early 1980s until 1991.

What is fluoride?

Fluoride can be found in nature as part of coal, clay, and minerals. It is a natural part of the earth's crust. Fluorides are added to products you use every day, like mouthwash and toothpaste. Fluorides are used in making steel, chemicals, dyes, and plastics. They are also used as pesticides to kill ants and roaches.

How could fluoride affect my health?

Low levels of fluoride in your drinking water can benefit your health. Small amounts of fluoride help prevent cavities by making teeth stronger. The fluoride at the Agrico site is in the soil. It is at much higher levels than in your water. You may have been exposed to fluoride by eating soil or breathing dust from the site.

Children get their permanent (adult) teeth between the ages of 5 and 9. Levels of fluoride in the Agrico ball field soil could affect your child's teeth. While new teeth are coming in, fluoride exposure for longer than one year could cause "mottling." Mottling results in permanent white specks on new teeth. Children between the ages of 5 and 9 who played on the ball field could have fluoride-related tooth mottling.

What can I do?

If you are concerned about mottling of your child's teeth, call your dentist. The dentist can do a dental exam. She or he will advise you about proper care of teeth affected by fluoride.

Is there a problem now?

The ball field on the Agrico site was closed in 1991. The site was fenced off to keep the public from entering it. There should be no future problems from fluoride exposure at this ball field.

Are there other chemicals from the ball field which may affect my health?

People who used the on-site ball field should not be affected by any other chemicals found in the soil.

Where can I get more information?

If you want a copy of the health assessment report or have any questions about the Agrico Chemical site, please contact:

Bruce Tuovila, M.S.
HRS Office of Environmental Toxicology (HSET)
1317 Winewood Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700
(904) 488-3385

If you want a copy of the *Citizen Handbook on Superfund Sites* or a citizen telephone resource directory, please contact:

Julia M. Winter, M.S.
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1317 Winewood Boulevard
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