

# Fairfax Street Wood Treaters Hazardous Waste Site

## *Update for Nearby Residents*

### January 2015



### **New Draft Report Now Available on Testing of Soil, Pond Mud, Surface Water and Groundwater on or off the Site**

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) and the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) work jointly to guard public health. We share facts from studies on toxic chemicals with people who live near a site to help them stay safe. If we find a health threat, we make sure people who live near a site know about it as soon as we can.

The former Fairfax Street Wood Treaters site is on 12 acres at 2610 Fairfax Street. It is next to the Susie E. Tolbert Elementary School. Since 2012, we have drafted three reports about the health risks from the site. (Learn more about the site and reports on the back of this page.)

We now have a draft report ready for the public. It looks at the health threat from chemicals present on and off the site. This includes test results on the soil, pond mud, surface water, and groundwater. We will respond to the comments we receive on this draft in the final report.

***Learn more at an informal open house Thursday, January 29, 2015 at the Duval County Public Library - Dallas Graham Branch, 2304 N. Myrtle Avenue, Jacksonville***  
***Come at your convenience anytime from 3:00 to 7:30 p.m.***  
***Please give your comments on the new draft report. See how to get copies on this update's back page.***  
***Comments are due by February 9, 2015***

#### ***New Draft Health Report Findings***

ATSDR and the Florida DOH looked at contaminants and their levels still present on the site. We found arsenic in the on-site soil and pond mud is the contaminant of concern. Our findings support the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to clean up the site. We found that:

- If children lived on the site before EPA cleans it up, they could become sick from contact with the average amount of arsenic in surface soil or pond mud. This is because when children play on the ground, some soil may stick to their hands and toys. If they put their hands or toys in their mouths, they can eat soil.
- Site trespassers might also contact surface soil but it is not likely to cause illness. Also, the increased cancer risk for trespassers is low.
- Contact with drinking water and shallow groundwater is not apt to harm health. The City of Jacksonville tests public water supplies on a routine basis. No one uses the area's shallow groundwater for drinking. Testing of shallow groundwater found no chemicals above drinking water standards.

Off the site we found that:

- Contact with arsenic levels in off-site soil or mud is not apt to harm health or greatly increase the risk of cancer.

#### ***New Advice from the Draft Health Report***

- People should not live or work on the site until the EPA cleans it up.
- If the city dredges Moncrief Creek, they should test the mud for arsenic and dispose of it safely.
- People should not eat fish from the pond part of the creek because storm water can have chemicals that build up in fish.

## ***Future Health Plans***

We will:

- Share a draft health report on February 2013 off-site soil sampling done in nearby yards.
- Share any other site news with people who live near the site.
- Consider review of new site-related EPA test results.

## ***More about the Fairfax Street Wood Treaters Site***

From 1980 to 2010, the site owners used chemicals to treat wood, which then got into the soil. From 1980 to 1990, storm water carried tainted soil off the site. In 1990, the owners dug ditches along the edge of the site to guide storm water into a lined pond on the site. When the pond got full, storm water flowed through a pipe into the creek. Storm water also went into a pond on the school grounds.

In October 2008, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) asked us to check on the health threat from chemicals found in the school's soil. Our September 2009 report found that chemicals in surface soil where children played at the school in the past were not apt to harm health.

In August 2010, the owners closed down the site. EPA began to take away the most tainted soil. EPA also dug up soil from the school's pond and where children play. In an August 2011 EPA meeting, we met with people who live nearby. At that time, we began work to find out how much risk the site posed to health.

In February 2012, we held a meeting to share a draft health report with the public about produce picked in the fall of 2011 from a garden next to the site. We also met with residents at another EPA meeting in September 2012. In December 2013, we shared a second draft health report with the public on produce picked from the same garden in spring 2012. In both reports, we found that eating the tested produce was not apt to harm health. At most, we expect only an increase in the risk of cancer from "very low" to "low." A final version of the first produce report is online. FDOH expects a final version of the second produce report later this year.

## ***For More Information***

**About health or to make comments on the draft report about the site:**

- Connie Garrett, Florida DOH: Call her toll-free at 877-798-2772 or e-mail her at: [PHToxicology@FLHealth.gov](mailto:PHToxicology@FLHealth.gov)
- Scott Turner, Florida DOH-Duval: Call him at 904-253-2422 or e-mail him at: [Scott.Turner@flhealth.gov](mailto:Scott.Turner@flhealth.gov).

**About cleanup of the site:**

- Cathy Amoroso, U.S. EPA: Call her at 404-562-8637 or e-mail her at: [Amoroso.Cathy@epa.gov](mailto:Amoroso.Cathy@epa.gov).

***Learn more at our Open House on Thursday, January 29, 2015***

***Duval County Public Library - Dallas Graham Branch***

***2304 N. Myrtle Avenue, Jacksonville***

***Come at your convenience anytime from 3:00 to 7:30 p.m.***

***Give your comments on the new draft health report!***

***To get a copy, please call toll-free at (877) 798-2772***

***Or visit our website at: [hazwaste.floridahealth.gov](http://hazwaste.floridahealth.gov)***

***Or send an email to: [PHToxicology@FLHealth.gov](mailto:PHToxicology@FLHealth.gov)***

***Comments are due by February 9, 2015!***



Comments and Questions

*Comments are due by February 9, 2015*

From People who live near the Fairfax Street Wood Treaters Site, Jacksonville, Florida

**PLEASE CIRCLE ONE ANSWER FOR EACH QUESTION:**

1. I learned more about the Fairfax Wood Treaters site.

Yes      Mostly      Some      No

2. I learned more about the Florida Department of Health's health assessment process.

Yes      Mostly      Some      No

3. I learned a new draft health report about on- and off-site soil, pond mud, surface water and groundwater is ready for review and comment.

Yes      Mostly      Some      No

4. I learned more about plans for work and other reports at this site.

Yes      Mostly      Some      No

5. I learned more about the part the Florida Department of Health plays at the site.

Yes      Mostly      Some      No

My current health concerns about the Fairfax site are:

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What health topics would you like to learn about? (Please list)

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**Optional (so we can contact you later, if needed)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Jacksonville, FL Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill this form out, fold in thirds, add a postage stamp, and mail to the address on the back of this page. Or save a stamp by calling our toll-free number (877-798-2772) to give us your comments or by sending them via e-mail to [PHToxicology@FLHealth.gov](mailto:PHToxicology@FLHealth.gov)

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please  
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class  
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Connie Garrett  
Florida Department of Health  
Public Health Toxicology  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A12  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1720

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