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www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/hazardous-waste-sites/index.html para la version en Español o llame al numero 877-798-2772 para pedir una copia por correo.

Orange County Landfill: Update for Nearby Residents Florida Department of Health Shares Draft Hydrogen Sulfide Report

November 2016



What is the issue at the landfill?

The Orange County Landfill is at 5901 Young Pine Road, about 13 miles southeast of downtown Orlando. The landfill opened in 1971.

In April 2013, the county began mixing construction and demolition (C&D) debris with municipal waste. C&D debris includes drywall, which gives off hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) when it gets wet and rots.

In 2015, the county started to get “rotten egg” odor complaints from people living near the landfill. The county’s consultants identified the odor as H₂S.

Since then, the county has been working to decrease landfill odors. They have:

- Stopped mixing C&D debris with household garbage
- Installed gas collection wells
- Improved landfill drainage
- Applied more cover soil
- Used an odor neutralizer

In mid-July 2016, the county installed three air monitors to test for H₂S. In August 2016, the county began posting weekly test results.

What do you need to know?

In a draft report the Department of Health finds:

- H₂S levels measured near the landfill between July 21 and October 19 were not likely to cause health problems, such as headaches, nose/throat irritation, and respiratory problems.
- Since July 2016, nearby residents have periodically been able to smell the distinct rotten egg odor of H₂S. Levels of H₂S in the nearby community were periodically above the odor threshold. The odor threshold, however, is far below those levels known to cause health effects.
- The Department of Health cannot determine the public health impacts near the landfill before July 2016.

What happens next?

The Department will hold an open house November 15, consider public comment on their draft report, and then issue a final report.

*Learn more about the draft Department of Health report at an informal **open house Tuesday, November 15** at the Orange County Utilities Administration Building, 9150 Curry Ford Road. Come at your convenience anytime from 3:00 to 7:30 p.m. Public comment on the draft report is due December 9.*

Why is the Florida Department of Health involved?

In February 2016, a nearby resident complained to the Florida Department of Health about headaches and throat irritation. Orlando media reported similar concerns from other people.

In March 2016, the Department agreed to evaluate the public health risk. The Department found the county's air testing was too infrequent to assess the health risk. The Department recommended testing for H₂S around-the-clock every 30 minutes for three months.

In July 2016, the county began air monitoring in three nearby neighborhoods.

On August 31, 2016, Department staff visited the landfill and nearby neighborhoods.

The Department now has a draft health report evaluating the health risk from H₂S measured from July through October. The Department will hold an open house public meeting November 15 to answer questions about its draft findings. This open house will feature posters and give people a chance to talk one-on-one with Department staff. A final report will address public comment and health concerns.

For More Information

About the Department of Health's draft report, contact: Debby Tipton, health scientist: call toll-free at 877-798-2772 or email her at: PHToxicology@FLHealth.gov

About the H₂S monitoring, contact: Jim Becker, Orange County Utilities Department, Solid Waste Division: call 407-254-9660 or email him at: Jim.Becker@ocfl.net

About the H₂S test results: See them online at: ocfl.net/landfillodor (Click on the headlines link at the top of the page to see the latest results.)

Visit the Florida Department of Health online at: hazwaste.floridahealth.gov

Tell us your health concerns about H₂S:

-- Call 877-798-2772 (toll-free)

-- Email PHToxicology@FLHealth.gov

How the Department of Health assesses the public health risk from exposure to chemicals:

The Department reviews air, soil, and water test results to estimate the health risk to people potentially exposed to chemicals. We compare test results to national guidelines, set far below known or suspected health effect levels. These guidelines protect the most sensitive people, like children. If chemicals are not present at levels high enough to harm sensitive groups, they will not likely harm healthy adults.

The Department's evaluation is not:

- A medical exam
- A review of medical records
- A community health study
- A door-to-door health survey
- A health study of current or former workers
- A clean-up plan

The Department does not:

- Make or enforce laws or rules about chemicals or pollution
- Provide medical services for people who contact chemicals

Once the Department writes a report, we tell the public about its findings and recommendations. We also advise people how to protect themselves from contact with chemicals.



November 2016

Comments about hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) from the Orange County Landfill in Orlando

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE ANSWER FOR EACH QUESTION:

1. I learned more about the health risk from H₂S from the Orange County Landfill.

Yes Mostly Some No
2. I learned the Department finds the levels of H₂S measured near the landfill are not likely to cause health effects or illness.

Yes Mostly Some No
3. I learned that since July 2016, nearby residents have periodically been able to smell the distinct rotten egg odor of H₂S, but at levels not likely to cause health effects.

Yes Mostly Some No
4. I learned the Department cannot determine the health threat in the past from H₂S.

Yes Mostly Some No
5. I learned I can submit comments on the draft Department report.

Yes Mostly Some No

My health concerns about the Orange County Landfill are:

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ City: _____, FL ZIP code: _____

Please fill this form out, fold in thirds, tape or staple shut, 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 emailing them to PHToxicology@FLHealth.gov.

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Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State ___ Zip _____

**PLEASE PLACE
FIRST CLASS
POSTAGE HERE**

Debby Tipton
Florida Department of Health
Public Health Toxicology
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A12
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1720

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