



# DAVENPORT & FLAGSTAFF SMELTERS

## FINAL PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT IS NOW AVAILABLE

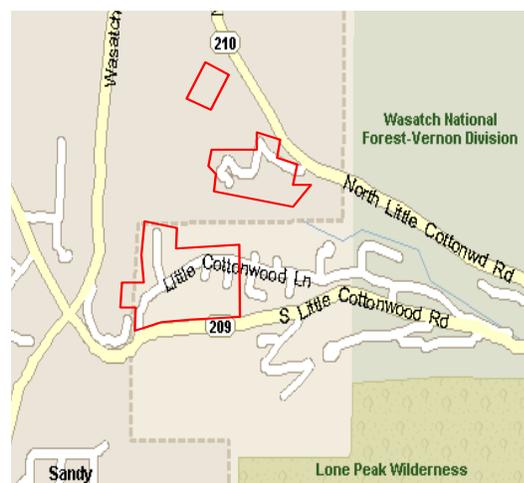
This fact sheet gives highlights of the Utah Department of Health's (UDOH) Public Health Assessment (PHA) on the Davenport & Flagstaff Smelter Site. If you would like a copy of the full PHA report, contact the UDOH, Environmental Epidemiology Program, contact information is located on the back of this summary.

## SMELTER SITE: PAST & PRESENT

The Davenport and Flagstaff Smelters Site is located approximately 15 miles southeast of Salt Lake City, near Sandy City, in Salt Lake County, Utah.

At least three smelters operated at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon near Sandy City, Utah, in the late 1800s: the Davenport Smelter, the McKay and Revolution Silver Mining Smelter, and the Flagstaff Smelter. **Smelting processes released lead, arsenic, and other metals into the environment in the form of dust and flue ash.**

A residential neighborhood now occupies the site. The area contains at least 43 single-family homes and one private school. This information, coupled with 2000 census data, gives an estimated 87 adults and 43 children living onsite.



 = Contaminated Areas



## HOW TO REDUCE EXPOSURE:

- Wash hands frequently especially before eating, handling food or smoking.
- Avoid hand to mouth activities.
- Eat foods high in iron and calcium
- Wash and peel all home grown fruits and vegetables
- Replace contaminated soil in flowerbeds and garden areas with fresh top soil or compost when possible
- Keep outside toys and furniture well maintained and clean.
- Maintain good lawn or groundcover to prevent the potential of contact with bare soil.
- Dust and vacuum inside your home regularly (dust using a damp cloth)
- Change A/C and furnace filters regularly.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE:

- The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) have detected lead and arsenic in the top six inches of soil in the residential areas. EPA performed an emergency response cleanup of the six most impacted properties in the spring of 2004. Clean-up will once again resume in the spring of 2005 on approximately six more properties.
- Lead and arsenic in the environment can come from both natural and man-made sources. The main source of lead and arsenic in the Davenport and Flagstaff area is soil and dust located within 330 yards (300 meters) of the former smelters.
- Children and adults can be exposed to lead and arsenic if they ingest or inhale contaminated soil or dust. Exposure doses were calculated for children and adults residing in the area and compared to ATSDR health guidelines. It was determined that exposures to lead and arsenic in the soil are sufficient to cause adverse health effects in both children and adults. It should be noted, however, that yards in the residential area are landscaped with sod and dense vegetation, making exposure to bare soil and dust minimal.
- Compared to adults, children are at an increased risk for adverse health effects from exposure to environmental contaminants. Children often play outside and have behaviors that make them more likely to come in contact with soil and dust. Exposure to lead can adversely affect a child's intelligence, behavior, and development, even at relatively low levels (10 micrograms lead per deciliter blood).

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## PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION PLAN:

The purpose of the public health action plan is to ensure the implementation of actions designed to stop and/or prevent adverse human health effects resulting from exposure to hazardous substances in the environment from the Davenport/Flagstaff Smelters site.

- The EEP and the Salt Lake Valley Health Department encourage parents and guardians to have their children ages six months to 17 years of age tested for blood lead. Pregnant women living near the former smelters should also consider being tested. The EEP will continue to monitor the Utah Blood Lead Registry for children with elevated blood lead levels living near the site to ensure adequate case management and environmental follow-up.
- The EEP Community Health Educator has conducted a health education needs assessment to determine the environmental health education needs and concerns of the community. The needs assessment will be used to direct future health education activities. The EEP staff will address health concerns related to the site, provide information on lead and arsenic, and outline measures to reduce exposure to metals in the soil.
- The EEP supports EPA and UDEQ efforts to clean-up the four most contaminated properties in the spring of 2004. The EEP also encourages EPA and UDEQ's plan to monitor air during construction activities associated with cleanup to ensure minimal impact on the public from airborne dust.

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## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry ATSDR

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