



**SHINE Program**  
**Superfund Health Investigation & Education**  
**Harbor Oil Public Health Assessment Summary Fact Sheet**  
**July 2003**

The Oregon SHINE Program evaluated the public health significance of past contamination from chemical spills used in oil and asphalt reclaiming processes at the former Harbor Oil facility in NE Portland, Oregon. The people that are most at risk for being exposed to the contaminants are workers on the site.

SHINE concluded that exposure to contaminants from past use of the site poses no apparent public health hazard. This is a result of the limited access to the property due to the industrial nature of the site and the concentrations of the contaminants.

Any exposure to site contaminants are likely to occur from contact with the soil, especially through accidental intake or skin contact. Children and recreational users of Force Lake may come into contact with sediments. However, soil exposures for adults and children are expected to be lower than health guidelines and would not be likely to cause adverse health effects. SHINE recommends that recreational users avoid access to Force Lake and the adjoining wetlands. Likewise, fish caught from Force Lake should not be eaten.

A copy of the Public Health Assessment (PHA) can be accessed at [www.healthoregon.org/superfund](http://www.healthoregon.org/superfund), the North Portland Library or the St. John's Library. Comments on the PHA are requested and are due by March 1, 2004; see the document for where to direct comments. Please contact program staff to answer questions about the health assessment and to tell them about any concerns you have.

### **What chemicals were detected at the Harbor Oil facility and Force Lake?**

- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
- Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs)
- Chlorinated pesticides
- Metals
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- Phthalates
- Petroleum product (diesel and oil)
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)

### **What will SHINE do to prevent or reduce adverse health effects from the contaminants found at the Harbor Oil site?**

- Work with the appropriate parties to post signs that warn the public to avoid eating fish caught from Force Lake.
- Continue to review new data as it becomes available.
- Inform and educate community members near Harbor Oil about the risks associated with this site.

#### **For more information, please call staff from the SHINE Program:**

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