

# Environmental Health Assessment Program

## EHAP partners with communities affected by hazardous waste in Oregon.

Uncontrolled toxic waste sites are an important environmental and public health concern in the United States. In Oregon, there are many hazardous waste sites that impact communities.

The Oregon Environmental Health Assessment Program (EHAP) works to assess and prevent human exposure to contamination at:

- Oregon sites listed on the National Priority List (also known as Superfund sites)
- other hazardous waste sites throughout Oregon that impact communities

## EHAP responds to requests from individuals and organizations.

EHAP becomes involved at sites where there may be a health hazard. Concerned individuals, organizations or governmental agencies may request EHAP to become involved at a site where a potential health hazard exists. EHAP then works with the Environmental Protection Agency, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), local health departments, ATSDR, and, most importantly, the affected communities to assess and prevent exposure to hazardous chemicals. **Contact us by phone, mail, or visit [www.healthoregon.org/ehap](http://www.healthoregon.org/ehap).**



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We're on the web: [www.healthoregon.org/ehap](http://www.healthoregon.org/ehap)

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# Environmental Health Assessment Program (EHAP)

*Assessing toxic substances in Oregon's environment*

## The role of EHAP in Oregon communities



## What is EHAP's role at hazardous waste and Superfund sites?

EHAP's goal is to assess and prevent exposure to toxic substances present in Oregon's environment. EHAP examines the health risks related to toxic exposures and educates the community on how to reduce or prevent these exposures.

We complete one or more of the following activities at priority sites:

- Public health assessments and consultations to evaluate health risk to the community
- Health education to reduce or prevent exposure
- Exposure investigations to find out if harmful levels of chemicals are present in people or the environment

### Community input drives EHAP's work at sites



## What else will EHAP do at a site?

- Provide information and recommendations to the affected community
- Inform the health care professionals about our findings and give them helpful materials
- Advise cleanup agencies such as DEQ and EPA of any health issues

## What are EHAP's limits?

- We do not make or enforce any laws or rules about hazardous wastes
- We do not provide medical services
- We do not supply funds for cleanup or relocating people
- We usually do not take samples
- We do not perform worker investigations

## How does the public get involved?

- Attend public meetings and information sessions
- Advise us about community health concerns
- Provide written comments about our reports
- Visit [www.healthoregon.org/ehap](http://www.healthoregon.org/ehap) for more opportunities

## Why does EHAP investigate sites?

EHAP is charged with fulfilling the health related terms of CERCLA through funding and support from ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry), a federal public health agency.

### CERCLA is also known as the Superfund law\*



## What are some examples of EHAP's work?

- Investigated the public health impact of contaminated groundwater in two Eugene neighborhoods.
- Assessed the public health risk of exposure to soil contaminated with heavy metals in a residential area in Sherwood.
- Educated Oregonians about safe fish eating guidelines.
- Tested residents in a rural community in Southern Oregon to learn more about exposure to heavy metals from mine tailings.

\*[www.epa.gov/superfund/policy/cercla.htm](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/policy/cercla.htm)