

Update on CTS

Update June 10, 2014

Background facts for CTS of Asheville

- The site is located in Skyland (Buncombe County)
- CTS manufactured electronic parts at the site from 1959-1986.
- EPA performed sampling of groundwater, drinking water, surface water, sub-surface soils, residential crawlspace air, and outdoor air.
- The primary contaminants of concern are trichloroethylene (TCE) and metals.
- There are 105 private drinking water wells within a 1 mile radius. EPA began sampling the wells in 2008.
- Seven drinking water systems (1 spring/ 6 wells) were contaminated by TCE.
- CTS was added to the National Priorities List (NPL) of sites in March 2012.
- Filtration systems were provided to residents with private wells within 1 mile radius of the site in 2012. More than 100 filtration systems were installed.
- The Health Assessment, Consultation, and Education Program, Division of Public Health, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services completed three documents on the site.
 - Public Health Assessment 2010
 - Health Consultation 2010
 - Health Consultation 2013

Updated Information

Vapor intrusion studies were offered to residents near the CTS property by EPA (measuring the level of TCE in the air). Three households have been evacuated on recommendation and with support of EPA.

These households agreed to the testing and levels were found to be greater than EPA's remediation management level (RML) for TCE. The levels in the indoor air are not expected to result in acute (or immediate) adverse health effects. Possible long-term adverse health effects of chronic TCE exposure are kidney cancer, impairment of the immune system, and fetal heart malformations in pregnant women (especially first trimester).

The U.S. EPA's role is to provide information about the sampling process, communicate sampling results, and perform additional testing. The Division of Public Health's role is to provide health information in communication and coordination with the Buncombe County Health Department.

The U.S. EPA plans to conduct outreach with additional residences adjacent to the residents tested. The NC Division of Public Health will continue to assist the Buncombe County Health Department.

Where can I get up-to-date information?

Buncombe County Health and Human Services website will have up-to-date information as well as resources for community members. Visit: buncombecounty.org/healthresources

Who should I contact if I have medical questions regarding the possible exposure to TCE?

Call your medical provider or the State Health Department (919) 707-5900.

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Who should I call if I live in the affected area and want a water filter?

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Well Testing

Contact Buncombe County Health and Human Services Department of Environmental Health to have your well water tested at (828) 250-5016.

Additional information

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Health Assessment, Consultation and Education program at (919) 707-5900 for additional health information.

References

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Toxicological Review of Trichloroethylene (CAS No. 79-01-6) in Support of Summary Information on the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS). September 2011. Available at epa.gov/iris/supdocs/0199index.html

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Trichloroethylene. Technology Transfer Network, Air Toxics Web Site. Accessed on November 20, 2012 from epa.gov/ttn/atw/hlthef/tri-ethy.html#ref4

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). ToxFAQs for Trichloroethylene (TCE). Accessed on November 13, 2012 from atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts19.html

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