

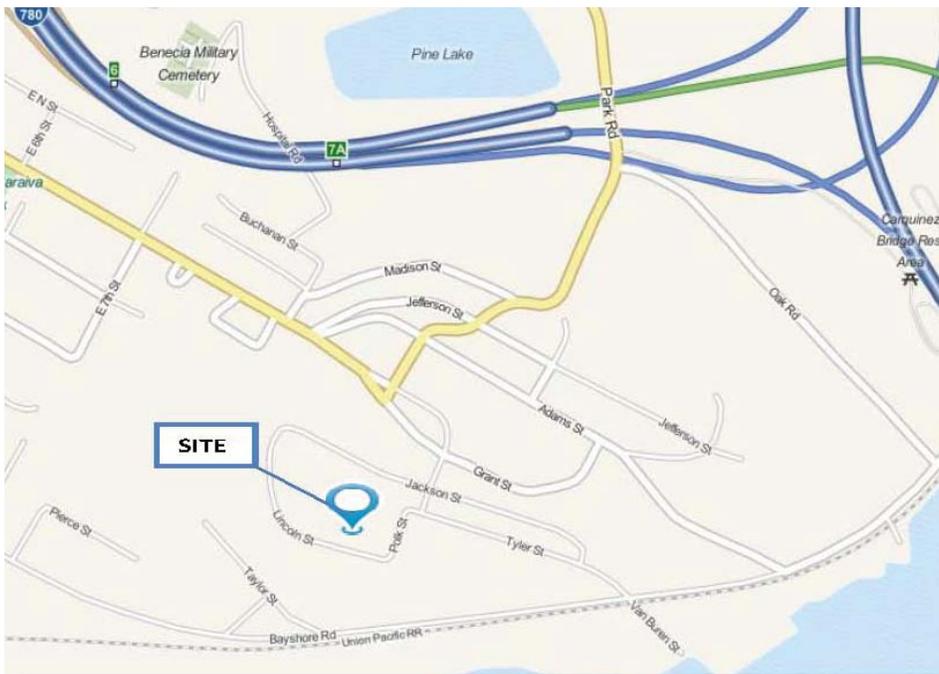
# COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

## Indoor Air Investigation at the Historical Arsenal Park, 50 Series Complex (Part of the Benicial Arsenal's "Lower Arsenal" area)

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has reviewed new environmental data regarding the Historical Arsenal Park, 50 Series Complex (Site), located 945 Tyler Street, Benicia, California 94510. The Site is located in the southern portion of the former Benicia Arsenal formerly known as the Lower Arsenal area. The investigation found solvents (trichloroethylene (TCE) and the petroleum constituents, benzene and ethylbenzene) in the indoor air at the Site.

The western portion of the Site had the highest detected indoor air concentrations of TCE as high as 75 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). US EPA commercial indoor air limit for TCE is  $8 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . Benzene and ethylbenzene were as high as  $2.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and  $67 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  respectively in the central portion of the Site. US EPA commercial indoor air limits for benzene is  $1.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and ethylbenzene is  $4.9 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . DTSC's commercial



Site Location Map: Historical Arsenal Park

### Community Involvement



DTSC will be at the Site on Wednesday, **August 27, 2014** at **11:00 a.m.**

We would like to meet with you and discuss what these sampling results mean to you and your property.

To schedule an appointment please contact:

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Or

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indoor air limit for Benzene is 0.42 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Certain control measures are currently being implemented to reduce the indoor air contamination. Additional sampling will be conducted to confirm these results and to investigate areas of potential concern. DTSC intends to keep the community informed throughout the investigation and cleanup activities.

## What Is DTSC's Role in the Cleanup?

DTSC, a Department within the California Environmental Protection Agency, oversees soil, groundwater, and vapor intrusion investigations at hazardous waste and hazardous substance release sites, and evaluates properties for potential hazardous substance contamination that may pose a risk to human health or the environment. If such contamination is found, DTSC oversees the cleanup of the property in accordance with State and federal laws and regulations.

## How Did DTSC Get Involved at the Site?

Most recently, the property owner became aware of the 2005 US Army report, and then installed the Proposition 65 signs at the Site. This spurred community concern over potential human health risks. DTSC performed a preliminary risk and hazard evaluation on the Site using groundwater data from the 2005 US Army report. DTSC promptly recommended an indoor air investigation of selected buildings at the Site based on the results of the risk evaluation. Since at least 1990, DTSC has been working with various parties on issues regarding the entire Benicia Arsenal, including efforts to identify where hazardous substances are present at levels that may affect human health and the environment.

## What are the Chemicals Of Concern (COC)s?

The COCs are TCE, benzene, ethylbenzene.

TCE is a man-made chemical which has mostly been used for cleaning metal parts in manufacturing. TCE is a carcinogen and is considered to present a developmental risk to unborn children. If you are a woman who is pregnant or may be pregnant DTSC recommends that you consult your physician for more information.

Benzene and ethylbenzene are constituents present in fuel or petroleum. Both are carcinogens, but unlike TCE, they do not pose an immediate threat to pregnant women.

## Where Did This Contamination Come From?

From 1849-1964, the military continuously used the Site for ordnance storage, manufacturing, cleaning and testing of small arms. The army had also operated a degreasing dip tank in the west side of the complex that used TCE as a solvent, and likely contributed to the TCE contamination in soil and groundwater at the Site.

Preliminary indoor air data from the Site showed that some indoor air concentrations of TCE were above indoor air, commercial screening levels. The highest indoor air concentration of TCE was located in the western portion of the Site; whereas, benzene and ethylbenzene were detected in central portion of the Site.

## How Could This Contamination Impact My Health?

Site investigations revealed the presence of TCE and petroleum constituents in indoor air and



groundwater samples. Most commonly, human exposure to these toxins is through air and drinking water.

Long term exposure to TCE in indoor air may result in an increased risk of cancer and male reproductive toxicity when breathed continuously over a period of years. However, recent studies suggest that short-term exposure to TCE may significantly impact the developing fetus. If you are a woman who is pregnant or may be pregnant DTSC recommends that you consult your physician for more information.

The groundwater at the Site is not a drinking water source. The drinking water is provided by the City of Benicia.

## What Immediate Actions to Protect My Health Have Been Taken?

Under DTSC's oversight, the property owner took

prompt and immediate actions to reduce indoor air concentrations of the COCs in an effort to minimize and eliminate exposures:

- Placing blowers in the areas with high concentrations
- Opening windows
- Increased sampling efforts and monitoring events

After taking these actions, a subsequent round of indoor air sampling confirmed that all three COCs were at concentrations below their US EPA commercial indoor air limits. The exception being a detection of TCE in the basement at 66 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

## What are the Next Steps?

DTSC is recommending further actions to reduce indoor air concentrations of COCs and limit potential exposure. A few options such as additional blowers and air purifiers are being considered for



*Site Photo: Historical Arsenal Park*



implementation. Further rounds of sampling would verify if indoor air concentrations have been eliminated or reduced to levels considered protective of human health.

In addition, long-term vapor intrusion mitigation and/or remediation options will be considered, as appropriate or needed, following the immediate actions described above.

## How Can I Be Involved?

DTSC is committed to engage the community at all stages of the investigation and cleanup. We utilize a variety of outreach tools to keep the community involved and informed which may include fact sheets, public notices, work notices, community meetings, website updates, community surveys and a Community Profile.

If you would like to be added to the Site mailing list to receive project updates and a copy of the community survey for completion please contact Public Participation Specialist, Radhika Majhail whose contact information is noted below.

## How To Find More Information?

Project reports and documents are available for public review at the following locations:

**Benicia Public Library**  
150 East L Street  
Benicia, California 94510  
(707) 746-4343 (Call for hours)

**DTSC (File Room)**  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826  
(916) 255-3758 (Call for appointment)

To view documents online at DTSC's Envirostor website: visit: [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/) Click on "Site/Facility Search" under "Tools." Enter "201994" in the Site Code field, click "Get Report."

## Whom Should I Contact?

If you have any questions about the project or would like more information please contact:

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