

Wingate

Community

News

September 2002 Wingate Newsletter from the Florida Department of Health

State and County Health Departments Work with Community and City Experts on Wingate Survey Plan

Incinerator Fly Ash For the past two months the Florida Department of Health (DOH) and the Broward County Health Department (CHD) have been working closely with community and Ft. Lauderdale city experts. They are developing a detailed plan to survey people who live around the former Wingate incinerator at 1300 NW 31st Avenue. The incinerator operated between 1954 and 1978. Nearby community residents reported ash fallout from the incinerator smoke stacks and also increases in illnesses.

Federal Funding The federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has earmarked \$120,000 for the survey. Florida DOH/Broward CHD hope to submit a detailed plan to ATSDR by the end of September. ATSDR and three independent expert epidemiologists must then review and approve the plan before a survey can begin.

Expert Help Community, city, and independent experts who are working on the project with the Florida DOH and Broward CHD are:

- Boston University expert epidemiologist **Dr. Richard Clapp**, on

behalf of the nearby residents and Legal Aid Services of Broward County.

- University of Alabama at Birmingham epidemiologist **Dr. Jeff Roseman**, independent expert.
- Expert toxicologist **Dr. Chris Teaf**, on behalf of the City of Ft. Lauderdale.

Survey Plans Florida DOH/Broward CHD met with community and city leaders at Bass Park on April 16, on June 6, and on July 15, 2002. They discussed various types of surveys. The community's expert, Dr. Richard Clapp, recommended a survey that focuses on individual reports of disease and symptoms.

He recommended asking people specifically about diseases and symptoms that are associated with chemicals found in incinerator fly ash. Florida DOH/Broward CHD agreed and are now planning a telephone survey of about 1,500 nearby residents. Callers will ask questions that focus on diseases and symptoms related to chemical exposure.

In another, separate action, the Florida DOH also will investigate area cancer rates.

