

# Health Consultation

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5<sup>TH</sup> AND CLEVELAND INCINERATOR SITE  
JACKSONVILLE, DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA  
EPA FACILITY ID: FL0001575992

NOVEMBER 12, 2003

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health Service  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
Division of Health Assessment and Consultation  
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

## **Health Consultation: A Note of Explanation**

An ATSDR health consultation is a verbal or written response from ATSDR to a specific request for information about health risks related to a specific site, a chemical release, or the presence of hazardous material. In order to prevent or mitigate exposures, a consultation may lead to specific actions, such as restricting use of or replacing water supplies; intensifying environmental sampling; restricting site access; or removing the contaminated material.

In addition, consultations may recommend additional public health actions, such as conducting health surveillance activities to evaluate exposure or trends in adverse health outcomes; conducting biological indicators of exposure studies to assess exposure; and providing health education for health care providers and community members. This concludes the health consultation process for this site, unless additional information is obtained by ATSDR which, in the Agency's opinion, indicates a need to revise or append the conclusions previously issued.

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## HEALTH CONSULTATION

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Prepared by:

Exposure Investigation and Consultation Branch  
Division of Health Assessment and Consultation  
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## **Background and Statement of Issues**

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry (ATSDR) was requested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IV to determine whether organized sports, including youth football, should be allowed at the Emmett Reed Park in Jacksonville, Florida.

Emmett Reed Park is located at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Cleveland Avenue in Jacksonville, Florida. This area was the site of a municipal waste incinerator from 1943 to 1969. Ash from the incinerator was disposed throughout a 36-acre area near the facility. The City of Jacksonville's Emmett Reed recreation facility is located near the site of the former incinerator. The facility contains an indoor activity center, playground, and outdoor basketball and baseball fields (1).

Several investigations have detected the presence of lead and other ash-associated contaminants at the 5<sup>th</sup> and Cleveland Incinerator site (1). EPA (Region 4) conducted a remedial investigation of the incinerator site in 2001. Lead levels in surface soils at the Emmett Reed facility exceeded the 400 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) screening level at three locations in and adjacent to the baseball field (2). As a result, the City of Jacksonville covered the affected areas of the field with clean soil as a temporary measure (2).

## **Discussion**

The Emmett Reed grounds are currently open to park visitors for informal recreation. The City of Jacksonville currently does not permit organized sports at the Emmett Reed grounds on the basis that this type activity will result in high usage of specific areas and thereby result in the degradation of the clean cover (3). County Health Department personnel have observed that some clean cover areas have been thinned from routine use to the extent that additional soil cover was required (3).

## **Child Health Considerations**

Children play at the Emmett Reed facility. This is of concern because lead, the principle site contaminant, is particularly harmful to children. The playground portion of the Emmett Reed Park does not contain ash contamination (3). The City of Jacksonville's application of temporary soil provides a barrier to prevent exposure to the incinerator ash contaminants, at portions of the park which contain incineration ash. However, this barrier is an interim measure which requires periodic inspection to insure the integrity of the soil cover. The activity of organized sports, particularly football, on a regular scheduled basis could greatly accelerate the degradation of the soil cover barrier.

## **Conclusions**

ATSDR believes that interim control measures at the Emmett Reed Park are sufficient to prevent exposure to subsurface contaminants, including lead and other ash-related compounds, during informal recreation activities provided that periodic inspections of the soil barrier are performed. However, use of the Emmett Reed Park for organized sports could lead to the accelerated degradation of the temporary soil barrier.

## **Recommendations**

ATSDR recommends that the City of Jacksonville continue their prohibition of scheduled organized sports at the Emmett Reed Park until permanent exposure control measures are implemented.

## **References**

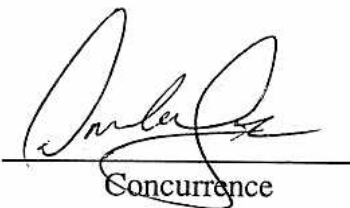
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2. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Jacksonville ash site. Forest street incinerator, 5<sup>th</sup> & Cleveland, Lonnie C. Miller Sr. park, remedial investigation report, CH2Hill. Atlanta: US Environmental Protection Agency (Region 5) 2000 Nov.
3. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. ATSDR record of activity for telephone. communication with David Jones, Duval County Health Department. Atlanta, Georgia. October 20, 2003.

**Preparers of Report:**

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Signature

11/10/2003  
Date

  
Concurrence

11/12/03  
Date

**Reviewer of Report:**



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