

Site Information

The Callaway & Son Drum Service property covers about 9.5 acres. It sits on the north side of Highway 17-92 in Lake Alfred. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently proposed the site to the "Superfund" National Priorities List (NPL).

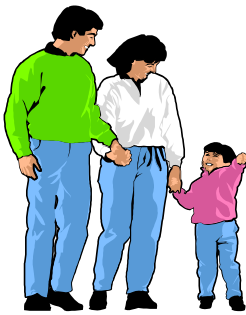
The business cleaned and recycled 55-gallon drums from 1977 to 1991, when it closed. During cleaning, the residue of chemicals left in the drums was washed out onto the ground. The drums had contained citrus, pesticides, oil, and other substances.

Earlier Investigations

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection investigated the Callaway site in 1984, 1986, and again in 1992. They found lead, arsenic, chromium, solvents, gasoline, and pesticides in the soil and in the groundwater (underground water).

Tests have found none of the site's chemicals at high levels in soil off the site. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) tested public drinking water in 1984 and 1994. They found it to be clean. To summarize, FDEP found contamination in an off-site sample of the shallow aquifer, but they found none in off-site

potable (drinking water) wells. This finding raised the question of whether groundwater contamination is moving away from the site. We need more sampling information to find the answer.



The Polk County Department of Health will test private wells within one-half mile of the site for those residents who request it.

What Is "Superfund"?

"Superfund" is the way EPA classifies serious hazardous waste sites. EPA puts the nation's most serious sites on a special list, the NPL. A site may go onto the NPL, however, if contamination is less serious, but there is no one to pay for cleaning it up. This allows cleanup to be funded by federal money set aside for cleanups.

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) is contracted by and partners with the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a federal agency. Our task is to assess the public health risk from environmental hazards and to work with affected communities.

The FDOH usually does not gather data, but takes information already obtained by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Florida's Department of Environmental Protection.

The FDOH informs communities of their findings and of their recommendations.

The FDOH assessment team does not make or enforce rules. It serves as advisor to the public and to other agencies involved.

ATSDR provides full funding for Florida's assessment and education work, including this fact sheet.

IN SUMMARY . . .

THE FDOH ADVISES AND RECOMMENDS THAT:

- Access to the site should be restricted and warning signs posted.
- More soil sampling should be done, both on and off the site. In addition, samples should be taken from sediments in the drainage ditch running south to Lake Haines.
- Off-site groundwater should be sampled to find the extent of contamination.
- To protect future on-site residents, the drilling of potable wells on the site should be restricted.
- Private potable wells within one-half mile of the site should be tested for site contaminants.
- The deep well on the site should be sampled regularly because it could be a channel for contaminants to move from the surficial (or shallow) aquifer to the deeper Floridan aquifer.

Let your voice be heard!

Give us your input. Attached is a form that might help you express your concerns, or ask questions, or comment on the work we are doing.

When you have filled it out, you can fold it in half, staple or tape it closed and send it to us. It will require a stamp.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Health Information

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EPA--Site and Cleanup Information

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