



Naval Weapons Station Concord Concord, California

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is a federal health agency with a main office in Atlanta, Georgia, and offices in 10 other cities in the United States. ATSDR gives people information about harmful chemicals in their environment and tells people how to protect themselves from being exposed to or coming into contact with chemicals.

This fact sheet answers questions about how ATSDR is involved in the Concord Naval Weapons Station site.

Background

Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Concord is a naval munitions storage and transshipment facility that is divided into two parts, a Tidal Area and Inland Area. The 5,200 acre Inland Area is located south of the Tidal Area and includes facilities for munitions storage and inspections as well as for maintenance, administration, public works, supply and housing. Wildlife preservation areas in the Inland Area include a 3,500 acres Tule Elk refuge and two Golden Eagle nest reserves. In addition, much of the Inland Area is leased to local ranchers for cattle grazing.

In December 1994, NWS Concord was placed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Priorities List because the land acquired by the Navy in the late 1960s and early 1970s was contaminated by the previous owners. This land, located within the Tidal Area, is referred to as the Litigation Area. The National Priorities List is an inventory of sites that the U.S. EPA has identified that require investigation and possible long-term environmental cleanup.

Why is ATSDR conducting a public health assessment on the Concord Naval Weapons Station?

ATSDR is required by Congress to conduct a Public Health Assessment on all sites placed on the EPA's National Priorities List authorities, including public health assessments, health studies, and consultations;

How does ATSDR assess exposure?

ATSDR staff evaluate all available information, such as community concerns, site observation, and environmental and health data, about hazardous substances at a site. The agency tries to find out if exposure to hazardous substances could cause harm to people living near the site.

What has ATSDR done so far?

- An initial site scoping visit was conducted by ATSDR on June 26-27, 1991.

- In January 2004, ATSDR visited the site to observe site conditions, particularly focusing on any potential environmental exposure pathways.
- Also in January 2004, ATSDR met with representatives from the U.S. Navy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, CA Regional Water Quality Board (San Francisco Bay Region), and CA Division of Toxic Substances Control, as well as members of the Concord Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) to develop a cooperative approach to address issues regarding Concord Naval Weapons Station.
- We have received environmental sampling data about the site from the U. S. Navy and state and federal agencies.

What is ATSDR doing now?

- We are reviewing data and information collected from the various agencies and members of the RAB to determine if people off-site could come into contact with contaminants from the base.

What will ATSDR do in the future ?

- We will continue to collect data and information from the various agencies and community members to determine whether people could come into contact with hazardous substances from the site, and whether that contact could cause harm to people living near the site.
- We will release a public health assessment that includes an analysis of past sampling data and data that are currently being gathered. The public health assessment will also discuss our conclusions about potential exposures in the community, possible health outcomes, and appropriate recommendations for future health activities if exposure has occurred or is occurring. We expect to have a draft available for public comment by the end of 2004.

For more information who should I contact ?

Maria Teran-Maclver, ATSDR's Community Involvement Specialist, in Atlanta at toll-free 1-888-42 ATSDR (1-888-422-8737), extension 1754 or Libby Levy, ATSDR Regional Representative at ATSDR's Regional Office in San Francisco, at (415) 947-4319.