

# Important Information for the Neighbors of Extruded Metals, Inc. Belding Plant

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## Belding, Michigan Plant

December 22, 2010

Extruded Metals, Inc. is distributing this fact sheet to let you know about an issue that may concern you and your neighbors. This fact sheet includes a brief history of the plant, a description of the issue of concern, why we would like your cooperation, and how we plan to proceed.

## History of the Facility

Extruded Metals, Inc. is a supplier of brass rods and bars to a variety of industries in the U.S. and Canada. On February 27, 2007, Mueller Brass Co. acquired Extruded Metals, Inc. The Extruded Metals plant has been operating in Belding for over 60 years.

At this facility, we produce several thousand tons of brass rod and bar per year. The products we produce can contain up to 3.5% lead. Lead is a necessary ingredient in the production of brass. Over the past 25 years, extensive air pollution equipment has been added, as required by law. However, emissions from the plant could contain small amounts of lead. As a result, lead may have settled on to your yard or other properties near the factory.

## Soil sampling activities and results

The State of Michigan recently tested the soil on our property and on adjoining properties and found increased levels of lead particles in the soil at certain locations immediately adjacent to the plant. The State performed field screening on 375 samples in the area and 73 of the samples resulted in preliminary readings that exceed 400 parts per million of lead in the soil. While these levels show that less than two-tenths of a percent of the soil is lead, some levels are above the government's precautionary environmental clean-up standards. There are many possible sources of lead, including naturally occurring lead in the soil and in paint used in homes before 1978. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency allows up to an average of 1200 parts per million for bare soil unless there are children playing in the area. The Michigan clean-up standard calls for remediation of lead at levels above 400 parts per million for residential properties and above 900 parts per million for industrial properties.

## Testing for lead in you and your family members

The fact that the levels of lead in the soil are above the regulatory limit does ***not*** necessarily mean that children playing in the yard are actually exposed to the lead, or that such exposure is resulting in elevated body levels of lead. **As a precaution, we recommend that you and your family members have a simple test to confirm that the level of lead in your body is not above normal levels.** This can be done by

taking a small blood sample or by an x-ray. Thousands of children across the state of Michigan are routinely tested for lead in their blood. You can get this test from your doctor. This test is also available through the Ionia County Public Health Department. If you agree that the results of the blood tests will be made available to us on an anonymous basis we will pay for the tests.

We suggest that you discuss the results with your doctor who can counsel you about the significance of the lead levels in the soil and in your body. We will provide an independent expert on the scientific literature about lead to be available to your doctor if he or she wishes to consult with her. This resource will not be an Extruded employee, but an independent expert in lead issues and can provide the best up-to-date medical and scientific information to your doctor. We will pay the costs for this consultation. More information about the health effects of high levels of lead is in the accompanying Public Health Statement from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), part of the federal government's Centers for Disease Control.

### **Take precautions until the cleanup is completed**

You may wish to take certain ATSDR-recommended precautions to minimize unnecessary exposures to the soils in your yard. Wash children's hands, faces, bottles, pacifiers and toys often to remove dust and soil, and regularly clean the house of dust and tracked-in soil. They also recommend that children not play on bare soil containing lead until after it is cleaned up or new grass sod is installed.

### **Proposed clean up of the soil**

We will work with owners and tenants of affected properties to develop an action plan for the lead if any in the soil. An environmental consulting firm will be hired to better understand and define the situation to determine the best method to accomplish any required cleanup. We want to do it quickly with as little inconvenience to you as possible. We are working under the guidance of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment and co-coordinating with the Ionia Department of Public Health. Most likely, we will scrape off the top few inches of dirt and replace with new dirt and sod. The dirt that is removed will be hauled away.

We intend to be very proactive in this matter. Our first concern is to make sure that the public's health is protected.

Please call Cindy Tomlinson at 1-800-553-3336 with any questions. She is available at this phone number on workdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will assist you in getting you questions answered.