



Torch Lake Superfund Site and Surrounding Areas

Physical Hazards

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) conducted a public health assessment (PHA) to determine if physical hazards exist at the former copper mining-related sites at the Torch Lake Superfund Site and surrounding areas. The PHA found that:

- public safety should be the top priority;
- some sites have restricted access but still have trespassers, while other sites are openly available to the public; and
- physical (and chemical) hazards should be either removed or corrected and access to these areas better restricted.

Physical hazards are not limited to the Torch Lake Superfund Site. Some physical hazards can be found in several locations across the Upper Peninsula where historical copper mining took place.

What is the Torch Lake Superfund Site and its surrounding areas?

The Torch Lake Superfund Site is located in Houghton County in the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan's Upper Peninsula (see map on back page). The Torch Lake Superfund Site is a large, complex site dealing mostly with stamp sands left behind from historical copper mining activities.

The Site and its surrounding areas include, but are not limited to, Lake Linden, Hubbell/Tamarck City, Mason, Point Mills and Isle-Royale. Historical copper mining and reclamation activities have occurred throughout the Keweenaw Peninsula. People may run into the remains from these activities in many locations.

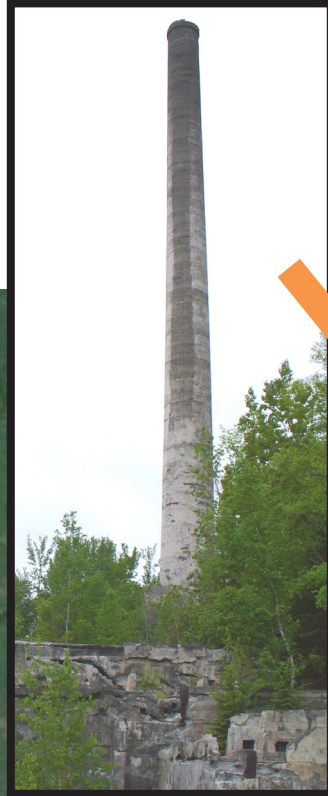
How might I encounter physical hazards at the Torch Lake Superfund Site and surrounding areas?

Due to the historic mining activities in the Upper Peninsula, specifically in the Keweenaw Peninsula, there are many mine and stamp mill ruins throughout the area. Although some structures were demolished and removed, rubble still remains. The rubble can create trip and fall hazards. The remaining structures may be structurally unstable, trip and fall hazards and possible exposure to chemicals.

The historic mining locations are not limited to the Torch Lake Superfund Site. There may be other locations where physical hazards or unstable underground structures are present.

MDCH supports the preservation of these sites for their historic value, but emphasizes that public safety should be considered first.

Map of the Torch Lake Superfund Site and Surrounding Areas



For more information

To learn more about the Torch Lake Superfund Site and the surrounding area, contact MDCH at **1-800-648-6942** or visit www.michigan.gov/mdch-toxics and look for the *Torch Lake Superfund Site and Surrounding Areas* link under the *Health Assessments and Related Document* tab.

