



Torch Lake Superfund Site and Surrounding Areas

Breathing Airborne Stampsands

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) conducted a public health assessment (PHA) to evaluate people's possible exposure to chemicals from breathing airborne stampsands. The PHA looked at stampsands from the Gay and Point Mills tailings piles.

MDCH found that:

- there are many stampsand piles in the Torch Lake area; each is unique, chemically and physically.
- stampsands can become airborne when trucks or street-sweeping vehicles are driven on roads where stampsands have been used as traction material or when off-road vehicles are driven on tailings piles.
- estimated levels of metals in airborne stampsands from the Gay tailings pile (see map on reverse side) are not expected to cause harm to heavy equipment operators or off-road vehicle users there.
- there is not enough information to get a good estimate of the levels of metals in airborne stampsands from street-sweeping in Calumet. Additional information is needed.

The evaluations in the PHA do not represent all areas or uses of stampsands.

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.

Michigan Department
of Community Health



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. 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/Tamarack City, Mason, Point Mills, Isle-Royale sands, Boston Pond, and Calumet Lake. Historical copper mining and reclamation activities occurred throughout the Keweenaw Peninsula. People may run into the remains from these activities in many locations.

Map of the Torch Lake Superfund Site Vicinity, Showing the Areas Evaluated in the Public Health Assessment Report

(the Superfund Site covers multiple locations; Torch Lake is identified for reference)

