

Stay Safe at the Lake Linden Beach!

Before this was a beach, this area used to be home to a mining factory. The buildings are gone, but some of the chemicals they used are still here.

It is safe to swim and play at this beach as long as you keep a few things in mind...



YES!

It is safe to swim and wade in the water.

Out in the swimming area, most of the chemicals are about a foot or more underground. You probably won't see them when playing in the water. And if you accidentally swallow some of the water, the level of chemicals in the water are not a health concern.



NO!

Do not dig holes on the beach or shore.

Because higher levels of the chemicals are found underground, it is not safe to dig down into the sand.

Some of the chemicals can get mixed in with the sand at the top, but there are higher levels of chemicals underground.



ALWAYS!

Wash before eating or leaving the beach.

The biggest health risk is accidentally swallowing the sand or sediment. Be sure to wash your hands before eating and leave the sand behind when you leave the beach.



Picture from the US EPA of some chemicals on the lake's shore.

LOOK OUT!

Do not touch any sand that is a strange color. It likely contains high amounts of harmful lead and other chemicals. Also, stay away from the creek area. There are higher levels of chemicals in that section of the park.

You can't always see lead and other chemicals in the sand. However, sometimes you may notice areas of the beach that aren't a normal color. There could be orange, white, or gray streaks in the sand - usually along the edge of the lake. These are likely lead and other chemicals from underground.

Although these chemicals won't go easily through your skin, you shouldn't touch them. You also don't want to risk getting them in your mouth. Always be sure to wash off all other sand before you eat or when you leave the beach.

Call the Village of Lake Linden at 906-296-9911 or the Western Upper Peninsula District Health Department (WUPHD) at 906-482-7382 ext. 119 and let them know what you saw, when, and where you saw it.



If you have any questions, please call the Village of Lake Linden at 906-296-9911. You can also learn more about the site at: www.michigan.gov/deq
Keywords: Mining Waste.

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