

The Former Gorham Manufacturing Facility Site Parcel C, Providence, Rhode Island

Facts about ATSDR's Public Health Activities

Introduction

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) wants to inform you about its recent review of Parcel C of the former Gorham Manufacturing Facility site. The site is located at 333 Adelaide Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island.

ATSDR was asked to find out if chemicals found at the Parcel C of the former Gorham Manufacturing Facility site could harm your health if the land is used for future redevelopment. To answer this question, ATSDR looked at available data for the site.

Background

The Gorham Manufacturing Facility (Gorham Site) is 37 acres of land located at 333 Adelaide Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island. The land is divided into four parcels:

- Parcel A, the Stop and Shop
- Parcel B, Alvarez High School
- Parcel C, former Gorham Manufacturing Landfill
- Parcel D, the Park and Pond

From 1890 to 1986, Gorham used chemicals to make silver tableware, bronze molds, and other metal items at this location. Some of the chemicals used were spilled or released into the soil and groundwater. Gorham also used Parcel C as a landfill. Available data shows that the soil, soil vapors and groundwater under Parcel C contains various chemicals including:

- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
- Metals
- Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)



Is Parcel C safe for re-development?

More testing is needed to answer this question. The available data is over seven years old. It does not provide ATSDR with enough current information to know if the site is safe for redevelopment. Currently there are no plans to use this land.

Is it possible to come in contact with the chemicals on Parcel C?

Parcel C is now closed to the public by a chain link fence and locked gate. There are "No Trespassing" signs posted in English and Spanish. Therefore, if you do not trespass onto the property you would not come in contact with the chemicals found in the soil.

What are the signs or symptoms that I might have if I come in contact with chemicals on Parcel C?

The signs or symptoms that you might have if you come in contact with the chemicals in the soil on Parcel C would depend on:

- the ability of the chemicals to do harm.
- how much of the chemicals got into your body.
- the way the chemicals got into your body.
- the amount of time you come in contact with the chemicals.
- how many times you were in contact with the chemicals.

People respond to chemicals in different ways. Some people may have no symptoms or get sick. While others may be more sensitive to chemicals and can get sick. For example, children, the elderly or people with health problems are often more sensitive to chemicals and may get sick more easily than others.

ATSDR recommends that you do not enter the property. However, if you trespass onto the property you may come in contact with chemicals in the soil. If you think you have come in contact with the chemicals found on Parcel C, you should talk to your doctor or medical provider.

What did ATSDR find?

There is no current information available to know if the chemicals found on Parcel C, could harm your health if the land is used for future redevelopment.

What does ATSDR recommend?

Current testing of the soil, soil vapors and groundwater is needed to know if the chemicals found on Parcel C could harm your health if the land is used for future re-development.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like more information on ATSDR activities at this site, please call the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) toll free line at 1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO) and ask to speak to someone about the Gorham Silver site in Providence, Rhode Island.

Visit our web site at www.atsdr.cdc.gov, if you would like more information about ATSDR.

References

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Atlanta, GA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, (August 2009) Public Health Consultation for Parcel C (AKA: the former Gorham Site), located in Providence, Rhode Island. Environmental Protection Agency Facility ID: RID001195015.

