



Thursday, Feb. 4, 2016

Joint message DEQ/OHA:

Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Health Authority are working together to respond to unsafe levels of arsenic and cadmium that have been measured in the air around Bullseye Glass in Southeast Portland. Bullseye Glass has voluntarily agreed to stop using cadmium and arsenic in its production, so there is no current risk of exposure from this source.

- DEQ is completing further analysis.
- OHA is responding to the health concerns of people who live, work, play and learn in the neighborhood.
- Both DEQ and OHA websites will the latest information.
- There will be a community meeting (tentative date Tues. Feb. 9). Representatives from both agencies will attend the meeting to provide information and answer questions.

NEXT STEPS (Feb. 4, 2016):

- OHA and DEQ will meet with parents of the nearest day care and Fred Meyer corporate office to explain situation and answer questions.
- OHA will work with the Multnomah County Health Department to develop health related FAQs.
- OHA, DEQ and Multnomah County will work together to host a public availability session next week to provide an opportunity for the public to get information and ask questions.
- The Oregon State Cancer Registry (OSCaR) in the Public Health Division is analyzing data on specific types of cancer (lung, bladder) in SE Portland because of concerns that cadmium and arsenic may lead to increased rates of these cancers. These analyses will be done for lung and bladder cancers. These analyses should be available in about 10 days.
- OHA and DEQ are coordinating with other agencies, including DEQ, Multnomah County Health Department, the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Portland Public Schools, Oregon Poison Control Center, the NW Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit and the Agency for Toxic Substances

and Disease Registry on this investigation and to respond to questions from people with health concerns.

- DEQ is developing maps outlining potential areas in the Portland region where metal concentrations are at levels of concern. DEQ will share these maps as they are available.
- DEQ is working with OHA to determine what additional monitoring will help OHA provide accurate and specific information about potential health impacts and other health recommendations. DEQ is drafting a monitoring plan that will take into account that Bullseye Glass has suspended cadmium and arsenic use.
- Questions? OHA will respond to the public's health inquiries through this email and phone number: EHAP.info@state.or.us, 971-673-0185.
- DEQ will continue to update its webpage, [Metals emissions in Portland](http://www.deq.state.or.us/nwr/metalsemissions.htm)
<http://www.deq.state.or.us/nwr/metalsemissions.htm>
- OHA will continue to update its website:
<http://public.health.oregon.gov/newsadvisories/Pages/metals-emissions.aspx>