



LIVING NEAR QUEMETCO

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SURVEY RESULTS

Quemetco is a battery recycling facility in the City of Industry. Quemetco’s operations may have released lead and arsenic into the surrounding communities of Hacienda Heights, La Puente, and Avocado Heights. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is testing soil to know the levels of lead in nearby communities. Currently, emissions from Quemetco comply with Federal and State regulations. For more information, visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/quemetco>.

Community Outreach

On September 21, 2019, 118 staff from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) and 8 community volunteers conducted door-to-door outreach and provided resources and information to residents living within a quarter mile of Quemetco.



472 HOMES OUTREACHED



154 SURVEYS COMPLETED

Survey Highlights

Residents were asked questions to understand their awareness and level of concern related to Quemetco.

23% were not aware Quemetco was in their neighborhood

56% felt that living near Quemetco had a negative impact on their daily life

70% were “concerned” or “very concerned” about their health or health of others because of living near Quemetco

Community Resource Fair

A Community Resource Fair was held at the Hacienda Heights Community Center where over 20 agencies distributed information and resources to residents. Agencies included representatives from the Los Angeles County Departments of Public Health, Mental Health, Fire, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works; DTSC; South Coast Air Quality Management District; Offices of Supervisors Janice Hahn and Hilda Solis; Office of CA Senator Susan Rubio; and Office of CA Assemblyman Gil Cisneros.





Free blood lead testing was offered at the Resource Fair

198 residents were tested

10 children ages 2-6

23 children ages 7-17

165 adults ages 18+

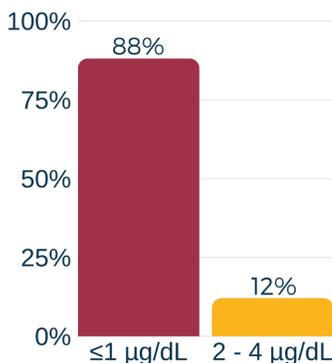
69% of respondents and/or their household members have not had their blood tested for lead.



Health Effects of Lead Exposure

Exposure to low levels of lead among young children can lead to health problems and can affect learning. The best way to know if you are exposed to lead is to have your blood tested.

48 out of the **198** residents (**24%**) who had their blood tested for lead live within a quarter of a mile of Quemetco.



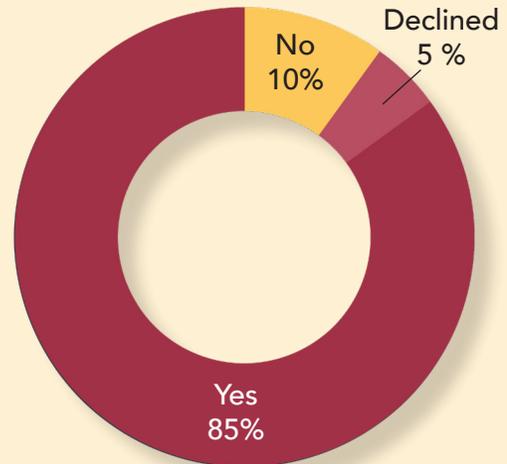
All blood lead level results were below 5 µg/dL, the national reference level. All children under 18 years old had blood lead levels equal to or below 1 µg/dL, the level of detection.

Soil Testing



To date:

- 132 out of the 368 homes located within a quarter of a mile of Quemetco had their soil tested by DTSC
- A Public Health Nurse visited the 18 homes that exceeded the US Environmental Protection Agency residential soil screening level for lead (400 ppm) and provided education.



Eighty-five percent (85%) of survey respondents said they would like to have the soil in their yard tested if another opportunity for free soil testing for lead is offered.

Next Steps

- A Public Health Nurse contacted the 99 residents who requested follow-up
- Public Health will continue to advocate for soil lead testing and cleanup, overseen by DTSC
- Public Health will work with community partners to conduct a resource fair with free blood lead testing and door-to-door educational outreach in Avocado Heights

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Quemetco Community Hotline: (213) 738-3232

or visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/quemetco>

