



**DATE:** January 4, 2012  
**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners  
**VIA:** Russ Blackburn, City Manager  
**FROM:** Fred Murry, Assistant City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Indoor Dust Study Project – Cabot Koppers Superfund Site

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This memo is to notify the Mayor and the City Commission that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) will be soliciting participation from homeowners in a study to test indoor household dust for dioxins and related chemicals in selected homes in the City of Gainesville. Residents from the neighborhoods surrounding the Cabot-Koppers Superfund site have expressed concerns about the potential indoor dust contamination in homes. In response, an Indoor Dust Dioxin work group, led by the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), completed a work plan for testing the levels of dioxins and related chemicals in house dust. Both the Gainesville City Commission and the Alachua County Board of County Commission have urged USEPA to promptly implement the work plan and the USEPA has agreed to do so. The result of the study will inform the community about the concentration of dioxins and related chemicals in house dust in the tested areas as well as the possible health impacts and remedies suggested by these concentrations. The work plan can be viewed and downloaded at the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department (ACEPD) Website under the heading of Indoor Dust Investigation Work Plan at the link below.

<http://www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/EPD/Pollution/Pages/CabotKoppersSuperfund.aspx>

The work plan recommends collection of indoor dust samples in houses near the Cabot-Koppers Superfund site as well as samples from background houses that are approximately 2 miles away from the site. A work group of local health, environmental and technical experts will identify a maximum of 15 homes near the site and 15 homes in background locations for testing. The homes will be selected from the group of homes whose owners have agreed to participate in the study by signing an access authorization form and completing a survey. The survey results will assist in the selection of the homes to be tested.

It is anticipated that the study will kick off this week with a press release to the general public about the study. This will be followed by USEPA solicitation letters, survey questions and access authorization forms being sent to approximately 400 property owners during the week of January 9, 2012. Homeowners will be asked to return the forms within 30 days to be included in

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the study. After matching and selection of homes to be sampled, actual sampling is expected to be performed by USEPA during March and April 2012.

If you have any questions about the Indoor Dust Investigation Work Plan, you may contact Mr. Scott Miller, Remedial Manager, USEPA Region 4 in Atlanta, Georgia at (404)562-9120. The Local Intergovernmental Team leader on this project is Dr. John Mousa, ACEPD Pollution Prevention Manager, who can be reached at (352)264-6805.

If you have further questions about this project, please contact Rick Hutton, GRU Supervising Utility Engineer, or myself regarding the Cabot–Koppers Superfund project.