

Update for Stephen Foster Neighborhood

October 2010

Koppers Hazardous Waste Site

Open House – Wednesday, October 6

About the Health Agencies

The main office of the Florida Department of Health (DOH), the DOH Alachua County Health Department (ACHD), and the US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) work jointly to serve the public. We are quick to respond with public health actions when needed. We provide trusted health knowledge about toxic chemicals at hazardous waste sites. If we find a health threat is occurring or is likely to happen, we make sure people who live nearby know about it right away.

About the Koppers Site

The Koppers hazardous waste site is near the intersection of North 23rd Avenue and North Main Street in Gainesville. Since 1916, Koppers site owners treated utility poles and timber with chemicals to prevent decay. Past waste disposal caused soil and ground water contamination.

In 1984, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added the Cabot-Koppers site to their Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). Recently, they discovered soil contamination west of the site. Since 1989, Florida DOH has reviewed environmental data, found the site a potential health risk, and recommended warning signs, further testing, and restricted site access.

Residents west of Koppers in the Stephen Foster neighborhood are concerned about contact with chemicals in the soil and contaminated dust in their homes. They also want to know if chemicals in sediments of creeks that drain the site might harm health.

Recent Florida DOH Advice for the Stephen Foster Neighborhood

- The responsible party or the City should erect better fences/warning signs along the easement next to the Koppers site between NW 26th and 30th Av. Parents should keep children from playing in this easement.
- The responsible party should continue to test for dioxins in Stephen Foster neighborhood surface soil.
- The responsible party should clean up contaminated surface soil in the Stephen Foster neighborhood.
- The responsible party should investigate/remediate contaminated dust in nearby buildings.

Recent Florida DOH Findings about Koppers On-Site Soil

- The responsible party should routinely water the site to prevent dust.
- The responsible party should perform a risk assessment for future commercial and residential use of their site.

Recent Florida DOH Findings about Springstead/Hogtown Creek Sediments

- Contamination in creek sediments is above state cleanup target levels.
- The responsible parties should remove contaminated creek sediments.

Open House

***Wednesday, October 6 from 6:00 to 9:00 Eastside Community Center
2841 East University Avenue, Gainesville***

Come at your convenience any time from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

***Speak to staff from the Florida DOH and the Alachua CHD,
the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP),
and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)***

Future Health Activities

- Florida DOH is finalizing a report on creek sediment sampling data.
- Florida DOH will review additional surface soil tests for dioxins around the Koppers site.
- Florida DOH epidemiologists are reviewing the Florida Cancer Data System in the Stephen Foster area.

***ATSDR/Florida DOH reports
are available at: www.myfloridaeh.com/medicine/superfund/pha.htm
Scroll down to Cabot Carbon/Koppers***

For More Information

About health:

- Randy Merchant, Florida DOH: (toll free) 877-798-2772 (randy_merchant@doh.state.fl.us)
- Anthony Dennis, Alachua CHD: 352-334-7930 (anthony_dennis@doh.state.fl.us)

About cleanup of the site:

- Scott Miller, US EPA: 404 562-9120 (miller.scott@epamail.epa.gov)

Please share this information with your neighbors!

**DIVISION OF
Environmental Health**



ATSDR
AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES
AND DISEASE REGISTRY