



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency United States Fireworks Company Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

Fact Sheet #1

February 2024

You are invited to the
EPA/TDEC Open House

March 18, 2024
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Lester Community Center
317 Tillman Street
Memphis, TN 38112

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) are investigating whether contamination from the former United States Fireworks Company (US Fireworks) in Memphis is present in soil of nearby residential areas.

EPA is offering soil sampling at no cost to homeowners and tenants in the study area (see map below). The sampling will take place during the week of April 15, 2024, and will inform any additional steps needed to protect human health and the environment.

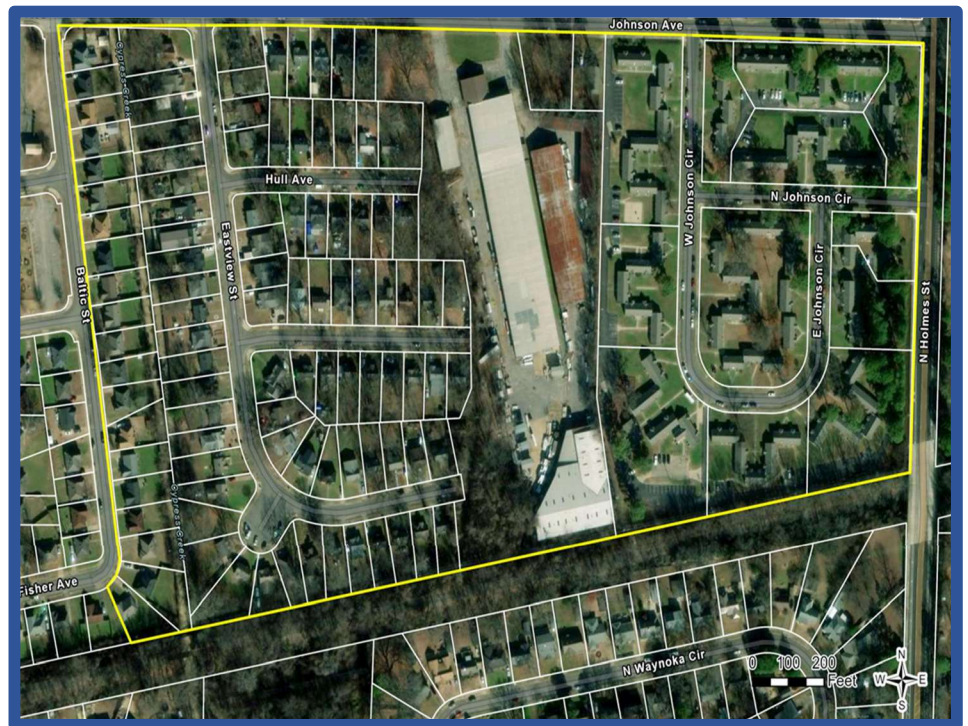
EPA and TDEC will have an open house (see box, left) to share background information about the site and next steps, and answer questions. Sampling permission forms will be available for residents to sign at the open house. The forms are also posted at: www.epa.gov/tn/memphis-tn-united-states-fireworks-company.

Residential Sampling

The study area encompasses approximately 34 acres of residential properties. The soil in the area will be sampled for contaminants related to historical fireworks manufacturing, including heavy metals like lead and arsenic.

The samples will be taken from yards outside, and tenants/homeowners **do not have to be present**. Results should be available by late summer 2024. Individual results will be shared directly with tenants/homeowners.

If the results indicate additional properties may be impacted, the study area will be expanded.



EPA is seeking permission to perform soil sampling from tenants/homeowners of the residential properties within the yellow boundary of the map above.

Additional Health Information

We understand you may have questions about the possible heavy metal contamination and what it means for you and your family. Residents and property owners are encouraged to come to the open house and/or reach out to the EPA contacts listed below to learn more.

At this time, the metals of interest are lead and arsenic, but other heavy metals may be present. You can find more information about the health effects of lead and arsenic and how to protect your family online at:

Lead – www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts13.pdf

Arsenic – www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts2.pdf

If you have additional questions about the health effects of lead or how to protect your family, you can contact the Shelby County Health Department, Environmental Health Services at (901) 222-9592 or the Tennessee Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at (615) 253-0005.

Background

A former pyrotechnics manufacturing facility operated on the 44-acre US Fireworks site from about 1920 to 1941. Today, a lumber company operates on a portion of the property (9.90 acres), and the remainder is occupied by residential single-family lots and apartments. EPA and TDEC have determined that additional soil sampling is needed to build upon information gathered during a 2013 site inspection.

We Need Your Help to Test Your Soil

EPA and TDEC will be in your neighborhood during **the week of April 15, 2024**, to collect soil samples. EPA is offering soil testing for possible contamination on residential properties in the study area (see map, page 1). EPA will use its discretion, consistent with agency policy, to sample residential properties free of charge.

If you are the tenant or owner, please sign the attached access authorization form to give EPA permission to sample your yard. The form is available online at:

www.epa.gov/tn/memphis-tn-united-states-fireworks-company

CONTACTS

EPA Site Assessment Manager

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EPA Community Involvement Coordinator

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TDEC Division of Remediation

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