

Living Near Quemetco



2019 and 2020 Community Outreach and Survey Results

Quemetco is a battery recycling facility in the City of Industry. Quemetco's historic 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) requires Quemetco to test soil within a quarter mile of the Quemetco facility to know the levels of lead in nearby communities. For more information, visit: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/hw-projects/quemetco-battery-recycling/> and <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/quemetco>.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In order to inform residents and provide resources and information to residents living near Quemetco, two door-to-door outreach events and community resource fairs were conducted between 2019 and 2020. On September 21, 2019, 118 staff members 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 Hacienda Heights residents living within a quarter mile of Quemetco; and on March 7, 2020, 80 Public Health staff and 11 community volunteers conducted a similar event in Avocado Heights.



COMMUNITY SURVEY

The door-to-door outreach included providing information and resources, and the administration of a confidential survey to understand the level of residents' awareness and concern related to Quemetco.



A total of **281** surveys were completed



154 in Hacienda Heights



127 in Avocado Heights

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

Were aware that Quemetco was in their neighborhood



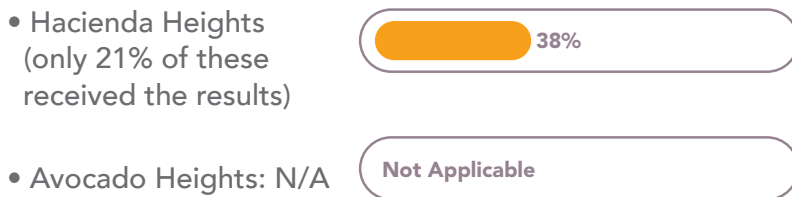
Felt that living near Quemetco had a negative impact on their daily life



Were "concerned" about their health or health of others because of living near Quemetco



Had the soil in their yard tested for lead in the last 5 years (soil testing was only conducted in Hacienda Heights)



Of those who did not have their yard tested for lead in Hacienda Heights



Would like to have the soil in their yard tested for lead if another opportunity for free soil testing was offered



COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIRS

Community resource fairs were held on September 21, 2019 at the Hacienda Heights Community Center, and on March 7, 2020 at the Avocado Heights Park. Over 20 public agencies distributed information and resources to residents at both events. Participating agencies included 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 BOTH RESOURCE FAIRS

Location	Children ages 2-6	Children ages 7-17	Adults ages 18+	Total
Hacienda Heights	10	23	165	198
Avocado Heights	0	2	64	66
Total	10	25	229	264

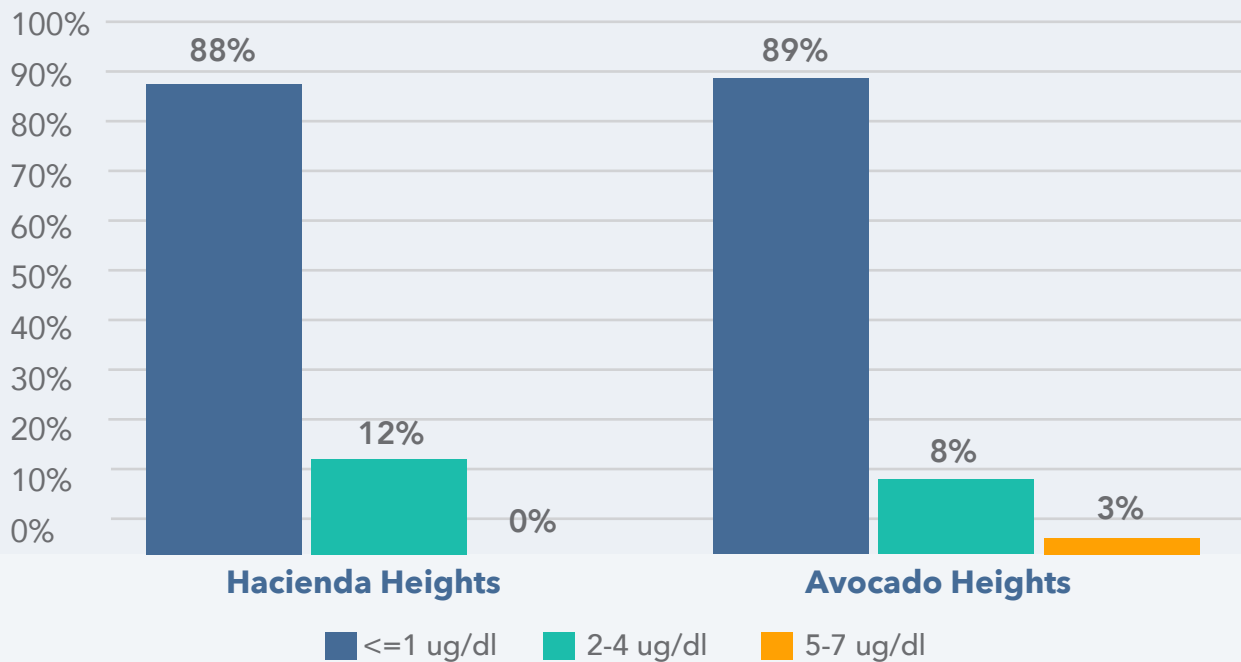
HEALTH EFFECTS OF LEAD EXPOSURE



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.

During the Hacienda Heights Resource Fair, 48 out of 198 residents (24%) who had their blood tested for lead lived within a quarter mile of Quemetco. All 66 residents who had their blood tested for lead during the Avocado Heights Resource Fair lived more than a quarter mile from Quemetco.

All children under 18 years of age had blood lead levels equal to or below 1 ug/dl, the level of detection;* and 99% of all of the results were below 5 ug/dl, the national reference level



* A non-detectable blood lead level test provides information about recent exposure within the last 30 days of testing but does not provide information about possible past exposure.

SOIL TESTING (ONLY CONDUCTED IN HACIENDA HEIGHTS) 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.

NEXT STEPS



Public Health will continue to advocate for additional soil lead testing and cleanup, overseen by DTSC.



A Public Health Nurse contacted the **165 residents** (**99 from Hacienda Heights and 66 from Avocado Heights**) who requested follow-up.