

EPA Completes Central Metal Site Inspection

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Pacific Southwest Region • Huntington Park, CA • October 2023

Key Findings

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed its Site Inspection of the Central Metal site in September 2023. EPA concluded that the site does not qualify for the National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund sites. Learn more about Superfund Site Assessment: epa.gov/superfund/superfund-site-assessment-home



- **EPA’s residential sampling and research found: Residential sampling data does not show that the former Central Metal facility is a significant source of lead, arsenic, or other metals in the nearby neighborhoods.** The concentrations that EPA identified do not point to the facility as a clear source of contamination, as EPA could not identify a pattern suggesting that the site was responsible for releasing heavy metals into the nearby neighborhoods. Heavy metals present in soil are most likely a result of both historical and potentially other sources found across the Los Angeles metropolitan area, both naturally occurring and caused by human activities.
- **The inspection found exceedances of EPA’s Site Assessment benchmark at 11 out of 83 residences.** This means that at least one soil sample at 11 properties that EPA tested had concentrations of lead or arsenic that were higher than EPA’s Site Assessment benchmark. Even though EPA could not identify Central Metal as a source, EPA is working with the residents and owners of the 11 properties to do additional testing if requested.

The current property owner of the site is working with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control to manage any future contamination found on the property. For more information about ongoing activities at the site, contact:

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About the Central Metal Site:

- 8201 Santa Fe Ave.
Huntington Park,
Los Angeles County,
California
- Approximately 11-acres
- Between neighborhoods of Walnut Park to the east and Florence-Firestone to the west



EPA sampled 83 properties in the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park areas as part of the Central Metal Site Inspection in August 2022.

Background

- Industrial operations were done at the site since at least the late 1920s.
- The site was used for different metal operations through the mid-1980s.
- In the late 1980s, a portion of the site was used as a scrap metal recycling facility (Damille Metal Supply, Inc.) until the late 1990s.
- In 2002, Central Metal, Inc. bought the facility. It stopped operations in 2016 and the site was purchased in December 2021 by a new owner and it is being converted into a U-Haul truck rental and storage facility.

What Did EPA Investigate at the Site?

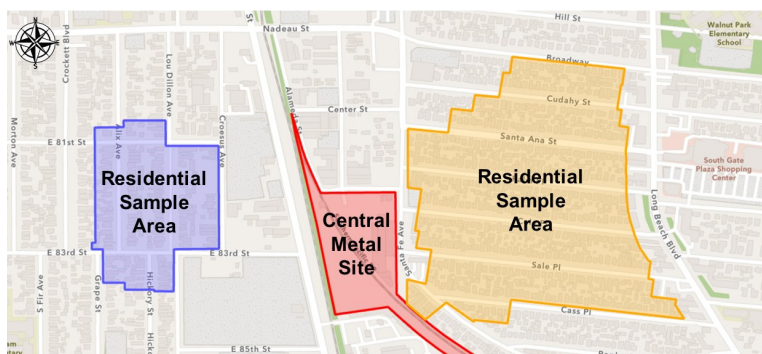
EPA started a Site Inspection in 2019, which included testing the soil of 83 properties which were selected because of their proximity to the Central Metal site and wind patterns in the area.

The goal of this investigation was to identify whether the site:

- was eligible to be listed on the National Priorities List as a Superfund site;
- was not eligible to be listed on the NPL as a Superfund site, but could be cleaned up by another EPA program;
- could be referred to the State of California for follow-up;
- did not require any further action.

The site was not eligible to be listed on the NPL, but EPA is now working with the residents and property owners of the 11 properties with exceedances of EPA’s benchmark from this site inspection. EPA will do additional testing if requested to better understand the extent of contamination.

Timeline of EPA Activities:



Contact EPA

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Learn More

EPA’s Central Metal Site Investigation website:
epa.gov/ca/central-metal-site-investigation



EPA’s Lead website:
epa.gov/lead

