

# Protect Your Family's Health

The Exide battery recycling plant in Vernon released harmful chemicals into surrounding communities. The California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) is cleaning the affected areas. Los Angeles County is providing information, blood lead testing, and other resources to community members.

## Key Chemicals and Health Risks

Key chemicals that were released during the operations of the Exide plant included lead, arsenic, benzene, and 1,3-butadiene.

- **Lead:** Can harm the brain, kidneys, liver, and other organs. Children less than 6 years old and pregnant women are at higher risk.
- **Arsenic:** Repeated exposure is associated with cancers of the skin, lung, digestive tract, liver, and kidney.
- **Benzene:** May increase the risk of developing leukemia and other blood disorders.
- **1,3-Butadiene:** Studies have shown that people who work around this chemical have an increased risk of developing leukemia.

## What can you do?

- **Inform your doctor** that you live in the Exide contaminated area and that you have been exposed to the chemicals listed above. These lab tests are recommended: CBC, metabolic count, urine analysis, and a blood lead level.
- **Make an appointment** for a blood lead level test.
- **Reduce lead exposure:**
  - **Wash your hands and toys often** to lower hand-to-mouth transfer of lead and dirt.
  - **Don't let children play on or eat dirt.** Playing on grass or sand is better.
  - **Take off your shoes before coming into your home.** The dirt from your shoes may have lead.
  - **Keep your pets' paws clean** they may be bringing lead into your home from the dirt outside.
  - **Wash clothes separately** if you have been working or playing in the dirt outside.
  - **Grow your fruits/vegetables in containers** if you garden. Buy your soil instead of using the dirt in your yard.



### Soil Lead Testing

1-844-225-3887

### Mental Health

Los Angeles County Department of  
Mental Health  
1-800-854-7771

### Free or Low-Cost Healthcare

Call 211

[publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/exide](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/exide)

### Free Blood Lead Testing

Call 1-844-888-2290 or visit:

#### East Los Angeles Service Center

133 N. Sunol Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90063  
(323) 768-2500

#### Hubert H. Humphrey Comprehensive Health Center

5850 S. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90003  
(323) 846-4312

#### Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center

1670 E. 120th St., Los Angeles, CA 90059  
(310) 668-5011

#### Edward Roybal Comprehensive Health Center

245 S. Fetterly Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90022  
(323) 980-2731

#### H. Claude Hudson Comprehensive Health Center

2829 S. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90007  
(213) 744-3945