

**You May Be Exposed to Lead
During the Following Activities...**



Hiking or Riding near Historic Mine
and Mill Sites



Camping, Playing or Recreating in
Contaminated Soil or on Shorelines



Fishing with Lead Weights or
Shooting with Lead Ammunition



*Prior to the release of mine waste contamination, swimming
in the Lower Coeur d'Alene River was a common practice
among the Tribe. Today, Tribal members are confined to
swim in uncontaminated areas in the Coeur d'Alene Basin.*

The Schitsu'umsh, "those who were found here" (The Coeur d'Alene Tribe) have long used the Basin for every aspect of their lives and they view this land as given to them by the Creator. Today, the Tribe maintains a strong spiritual connection to their aboriginal territory.

The Schitsu'umsh continued to use the Lower Coeur d'Alene River Basin until the late 1800's, when oral history says that the River "turned white." Recognizing the health risks, they moved many of their activities to other parts of the Basin that were free of contamination. Today, the Schitsu'umsh long to reconnect to their aboriginal territory and their hope is that through clean-up and restoration, this will become a reality.

Play Clean Like Riley!



Keep the dirt and dust
off your face and feet,
And wash your hands
before you eat!

Need More Information?

Contact the following to learn more:

Lead Health Intervention Program

The effects of lead commonly go unrecognized. Contact us with questions about exposure risks, free blood-lead testing, and educational programs. We recommend annual blood-lead testing for all children, especially those living or recreating in the Coeur d'Alene Basin.

Panhandle Health District
(208) 783-0707

There are resources available to help you make decisions that protect you, your property, and water quality on or near waterways in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. For more information, contact the **Idaho Department of Environmental Quality** at **(208) 666-4623** or the **Coeur d'Alene Tribe** at **(208) 667-5772** or visit www.uidaho.edu/ourgem.



To Learn More About the Cleanup Contact:

EPA Region 10, Seattle

Community Involvement
Coordinator

(206) 638-6305 or (206) 553-7051

You can also contact the **Idaho Department of Environmental Quality** at **(208) 783-5781** or for more information visit:



cdabasin.idaho.gov

Have Fun AND Stay Safe in the CDA Basin



cdabasin.idaho.gov

A Beautiful Place with a Unique History

In the 1880s, mining began in the Silver Valley. The area eventually became one of the most productive mining areas in the United States. Though common, early industry practices caused disastrous effects on the environment. The problem was only compounded by flooding and other natural forces, causing heavy metal contamination to be spread throughout the area. Environmental cleanup has been ongoing for decades and will continue for the foreseeable future. Heavy metals pose a risk to human health, local wildlife and the environment. Contamination can be encountered along shorelines, in floodplains, and at or near historic mine and mill sites. One of the most common contaminants is lead. Exposure occurs through ingesting or inhaling contaminated soil. Lead exposure can affect nearly every system of the body and often has no obvious initial effects. There is no safe level of lead exposure.



Tips for Staying Safe and Having Fun

- * Wash your hands and face before eating
- * Bring clean water for drinking, cooking, and washing. Do not use water from the river even if it is filtered!
- * Eat on a table or on a blanket in grassy areas for protection
- * Remove dirt from clothes, toys, pets, and equipment before leaving. Soil tracked home from recreation areas becomes an exposure source for you and your family.
- * Cover your mouth and nose when riding on off-road trails
- * When you use the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes, stay on the trail and in designated areas
- * Check fish consumption advisories. It is best to eat fillets only.
- * Do not harvest edible plants from floodplain areas
- * Remember, prolonged exposure increases risk especially for young children and expecting mothers