



Tamarack No. 7 Mine and Mile Site, north of Wallace, in Burke Canyon

LEAD SAFE RECREATION AT HISTORICAL MINE SITES

Historical mines (also known as Ghost Towns) provide a unique recreational opportunity to experience a fascinating part of Idaho's heritage. The buildings and structures are historical artifacts, and many are privately owned. Help us preserve the historical buildings and do not damage structures or enter "no trespassing" areas.

Lead is harmful to everyone, but most dangerous to children and pregnant women

- Lead can damage the brain, nervous system, kidneys, and immune system.
- Lead exposure can result in slowed growth and development.
- Lead exposure can cause learning and behavior problems.
- Pregnant women exposed to lead may have an increased risk for miscarriage, low birth weight, and premature births. Prenatal exposure to lead may hurt the baby's brain, kidneys and nervous system, or cause the child to have learning or behavior problems.

Lead poisoning is preventable! Protect yourself and your family. There is no safe level of lead. Stay safe while enjoying the historical areas of Idaho.

Be aware of lead sources while recreating

1. Historic mining areas can have high levels of lead and other metals in waste rock, tailing piles, soil, sediment, water, and historical buildings.
2. Soil and dust from contaminated areas can be unknowingly tracked into vehicles or homes after recreating in areas impacted by past mining activities.

Lead can enter the body while:

- Recreating in contaminated soil.
- Putting hands or other objects covered with dust into the mouth.
- Breathing in contaminated dust.

When children are present:



- Do not allow children to dig or play in the dirt (e.g., bare soil, muddy areas, mine waste piles).
- Frequently bathe children. If water is not available, wash children with a damp cloth or wet wipes.
- Regularly clean toys, pacifiers, and other items that children put into their mouths.
- Avoid interaction between children and dirty, dusty pets.

When recreating:



- Go slowly, do not create dust, and follow others at a safe riding distance.
- Avoid breathing dust by wearing a mask or face covering.
- Wash hands with soap and water or wipes before eating or drinking.
- Avoid disturbing mine waste piles and all other soil throughout the area.
- Eat on a clean table or blanket, not on the ground. Do not eat food that has fallen on the ground.

When staying:



- Avoid tracking dirt inside by removing shoes and dusty clothing before entering.
- Wash or wipe the paws and fur of pets before allowing them inside homes or vehicles.
- Wash hands often, especially after outdoor activities and before eating or drinking.
- Regularly mop floors and damp-wipe indoor surfaces, such as tables and countertops.
- Keep windows and doors closed on windy days.
- Store dirty laundry in garbage bags to wash separately later.

When returning home:



- Remove shoes and wash dirty, dusty clothes separately from other laundry.
- Bathe pets before allowing them to enter your home.
- Wash or use a damp cloth to wipe off camping gear, recreational equipment, and toys.
- Wash vehicles and ATVs to avoid tracking contaminated soil into your garage and home.

Other hazards to consider

1. Stay out of active or closed mines. Dangers include lack of oxygen (bad air), cave-ins, open shafts, old explosives, and unsafe walking surfaces.
2. Historical buildings are not stable and often have hazards such as, lead-based paint, broken frames, unforeseen animal dangers, and hazardous chemicals.

Remember!!

There is no safe blood lead level in children. Even low levels of lead have been shown to affect a child's learning capability, ability to pay attention, and academic achievement. The effects of lead exposure can be permanent. The most important step parents, doctors, and others can take is to prevent lead exposure before it occurs.



Copper flue dust reserves from the Bunker Hill Lead Smelter found near Kellogg. This is extremely high in lead, cadmium, arsenic, and mercury



Mine Rock Waste Dump, 9 Mile Canyon

Contact your health care provider and ask for a simple blood lead level test for you and your family. Tests are covered by Medicaid and most private health insurance.

Every year dozens of people are injured or killed in recreational accidents on mine sites. Hazards associated with abandoned mines are not always apparent to recreationalists, STAY OUT AND STAY ALIVE. For more information visit: www.abandonedmines.gov.

For additional information contact:

1. Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
Environmental Health Program
Healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/health-wellness/environmental-health
800-445-8647
bceh@dhw.idaho.gov
2. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
www.deq.idaho.gov/waste-management-and-remediation/mining-in-idaho/
208-373-0502
866-790-4337



