

ADHS Activities

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) works with other local and state agencies and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to conduct activities at brownfield sites to identify health concerns, mitigate exposure, and address community health concerns.

ADHS addresses community concerns through a variety of activities such as health education, site visits, and risk assessment reports, called health consultations. Brownfield topics covered in the past have included exposure to lead and other metals in soil.

A list of current and past activities are located online at www.azdhs.gov/phs/oeh. The website has links to ADHS reports and maps of brownfield sites throughout Arizona.

Please contact ADHS' Office of Environmental Health if you are interested in learning more about brownfields or would like to request assistance from ADHS.

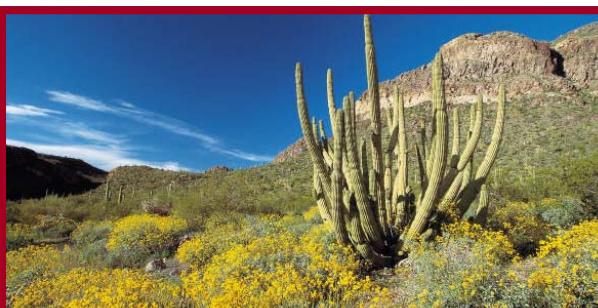


CERCLA

Both superfund sites and brownfield sites are explained under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), which has come to be known as the Superfund Law. However, **brownfield sites are not the same as superfund sites.**

A superfund site is “an uncontrolled or abandoned place where hazardous waste is located, possibly affecting local ecosystems or people.” There are documented hazardous substances on superfund sites.

A brownfield site is “real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by *real or perceived* contamination.” Maybe due to its former uses or current condition, there is expressed concern of *potential* contamination or physical hazards. However, a brownfield site is *not necessarily* contaminated.



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Brownfields & Land Reuse

Office of Environmental Health



Brownfields are typically former industrial or commercial properties that are abandoned, underused, or not considered for redevelopment because of possible (real or perceived) contamination. Examples of brownfield sites include former manufacturing facilities, dumps, and dry cleaners. These properties have a significant impact on local economies and property development.



Brownfields and Land Reuse

Public Health Involvement

Working together, we can build a better community

Activities to restore and rebuild brownfield properties are usually led by local planning & zoning, community revitalization, and economic development agencies. Public health agencies support redevelopment efforts while assuring the protection of public health. Potential health hazards at brownfield sites may include potential physical or chemical hazards, i.e. unsafe structures, sharp objects, and leaking underground storage tanks.

Redeveloping brownfields protects public health by preventing exposure to hazardous substances and eliminating physical hazards, and in turn, improves the overall quality of life for the surrounding community.

Sensitive Populations: Some people are more sensitive to environmental contamination than others. This can be due to the individual for example, age or genetics or

environmental influences such as occupations, hobbies, or geographic location.

For example, while most adults show little interest in abandoned or underused properties, children often use sites like these as playgrounds and places to explore. The elderly may be more sensitive due to changes in the body's ability to remove chemicals and repair damage.

Children are generally more vulnerable to environmental contaminants because they are still developing, and have low body weight



Public health interventions and advisories take into account sensitive and vulnerable populations.

Community Benefits

Redeveloping (restoring, rebuilding, and improving) brownfield sites into productive and more viable land uses benefits communities in several ways.

Encourages Physical Activity and Healthy Living: Some brownfields are developed into "green spaces" such as parks and community gardens.

Redevelopment brings green spaces, which encourage physical activity

Improving the Faces of Communities: Brownfield properties may not be well maintained or contain unwanted waste. Environmental site assessment and subsequent cleaning up activities improves communities' appearance.

Redevelopment improves communities by encouraging economic growth

Stimulating Economic Growth: Redevelopment encourages new and existing businesses to invest in the community, which creates and maintains viable employment opportunities.

Discouraging Crime: Eliminating unused and vacant properties pushes crime out of the community. Places that were once a haven for criminals become occupied by thriving businesses or community activities.