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BIOGEMS



MOLD

We collected one outdoor sample for mold in Chalmette.

10/17/05

Jean Lafitte and Creole (outdoor)
 77,000 spores/m³ (daily estimated average based on 6 hours of continuous volumetric sampling)
 54% *Cladosporium*
 16% *Aspergillus/Penicillium*

Note: According to the National Allergy Bureau, outdoor air mold counts over 50,000 spores per cubic meter (spores/m³) are "Very High." *Cladosporium* and *Aspergillus/Penicillium* are known to cause health effects in humans, including respiratory disease.

Concentrations of some molds are typically higher at night. These calculations, based on 6-hour continuous volumetric measurement during daytime hours, may underestimate the true 24-hour concentration.

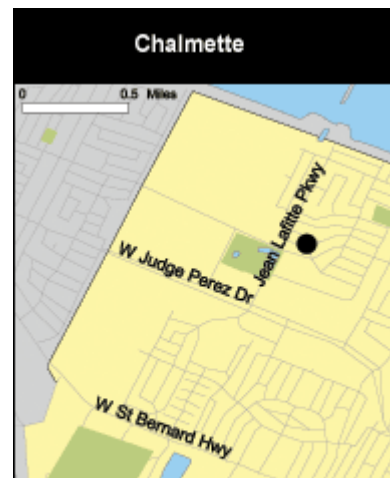
ENDOTOXIN

We collected one outdoor sample for endotoxin in Chalmette.

Jean Lafitte and Creole (outdoor)
 1.8 EU/m³

Note: Normal background levels of endotoxin reported in many areas of the country are

SAMPLING LOCATIONS



- NRDC Sampling Location
- Outside This Neighborhood
- Parks

Maps on these pages show NRDC sample locations for mold, sediment and endotoxin. NRDC particulate samples were taken at multiple locations. Results of sediment sampling by the EPA and others are summarized on these pages but locations are not marked on the maps. [SEE AREA MAP](#)

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below 1 EU/m³. Levels above 10-28 EU/m³ may be associated with long-term declines in lung function after chronic exposure. Levels of 45 EU/m³ have been associated with decreases in lung function after exposures as short as one day.

SEDIMENT CONTAMINATION

The Louisiana Bucket Brigade (www.labucketbrigade.org) took a total of 14 samples on two different dates in Chalmette, St. Bernard Parish.

- Toxic metals -- lead, arsenic, mercury, cadmium, and chromium -- were found in most samples. The amount of arsenic in many areas was higher than the "minimum risk level" established by the federal government and was above the level established by the Region 6 EPA for soil cleanup in residential neighborhoods.
- Other contaminants in the sediment included phthalates (chemicals in plastics), several industrial solvents (acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, and carbon disulfide), and polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) which are cancer-causing chemicals from soot and petroleum-based products.

Ten samples were taken in Chalmette, St. Bernard Parish, near the Murphy Oil refinery on September 29, 2005, and analyzed by Analytical Services Inc.

Chalmette Results, LBB Sampling, 9/29		
CONTAMINANTS	NUMBER OF DETECTIONS (10 sites tested)	SITES EXCEEDING EPA REGION 6 OR LDEQ CLEANUP STANDARD
Metals		
Arsenic	3	3621 Lena Dr. 2235 Jacob Dr. 3204 Despaux Dr.
Lead	10	None
Chromium	10	None
Petroleum		
Gasoline fuel organics	2	2235 Jacob Dr.
VOCs		
sec-Butylbenzene	1	None
n-Butylbenzene	1	None
Isopropyltoluene	2	None
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	2	None
1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene	1	None
<i>Note: The limit of detection for arsenic and the polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) at this lab was above the EPA Region 6 cleanup standard. The lab did not test for mercury.</i>		

Four samples were taken in Chalmette, St. Bernard Parish, on September 19, 2005, and analyzed by Columbia Analytical Services Inc.

Chalmette Results, LBB Sampling, 9/19		

CONTAMINANTS	NUMBER OF DETECTIONS (4 sites tested)	SITES WHERE LOCAL (EPA REGION 6 OR LDEQ) CLEANUP STANDARD WAS EXCEEDED
Metals		
Arsenic	4	All 4 sites
Lead	4	None
Cadmium	4	None
Chromium	4	None
Mercury	1	None
Petroleum		
PAHs		
Benzo[a]pyrene	1	Rowley School playground
Indeno[1,2,3-cd]pyrene	2	Rowley School playground
Dibenz[ah]anthracene	1	Rowley School playground
Benzo[a]anthracene	2	Rowley School playground
Benzo[b]fluoranthene	2	Rowley School playground
Benzo[k]fluoranthene	2	None
Fluoranthene	2	None
Pyrene	3	None
Anthracene	1	None
Chrysene	1	None
VOCs		
Acetone	1	12 Carrol Dr.
Carbon Disulfide	1	None
2-Butanone (methyl ethyl ketone)	1	None
Phthalates		
bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP)	1	None

LEAN (Louisiana Environmental Action Network) sponsored two samples in St. Bernard Parish on September 16, 2005. These samples were collected by Altamont Environmental, Inc. and were analyzed by Pace Analytical Services in St. Rose, Louisiana. One sample was at East Judge Perez and Judy Drive, and the other was at West St. Bernard Highway and Lloyds Avenue. The levels of arsenic and other metals in these samples were quite low, as were the levels of PAHs and industrial solvent.

For further information about arsenic, NRDC analyzed 13 EPA sediment samples from St. Bernard Parish.

- The EPA found an average level of 12 mg/kg of arsenic in these samples. The levels in the agency's testing ranged from 2.2 mg/kg to 21 mg/kg. Twelve of these samples exceeded the EPA Region 6 cleanup standard for arsenic of 0.39 mg/kg, which is based on cancer risk. Eleven of the 13 samples exceeded the LDEQ soil "background" level of arsenic of 7 mg/kg.

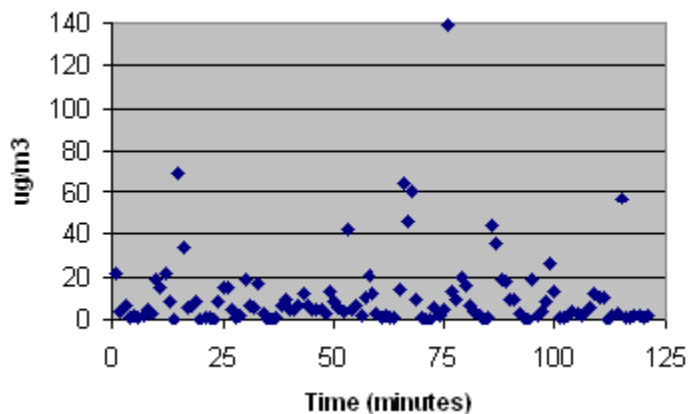
PARTICULATE POLLUTION

NRDC sampled for particulate matter for nearly three hours on October 17, 2005, in Chalmette and Meraux, St. Bernard Parish. The weather was clear with very little wind, and there was no visible haze. Many side streets had a visible residue of dark, crusted sediment on the pavement, and there was noticeable dust when vehicles traveled down these streets. Overall the air quality was good when the monitor was not located in an area where another vehicle was driving and stirring up the sediment. However, when the monitor was behind another vehicle, the levels of particulate matter jumped to potentially significant levels, at or above 100 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³). People working in the dusty parts of the neighborhood -- especially on side streets -- and those engaged in cleanup or demolition work should wear respiratory protection.

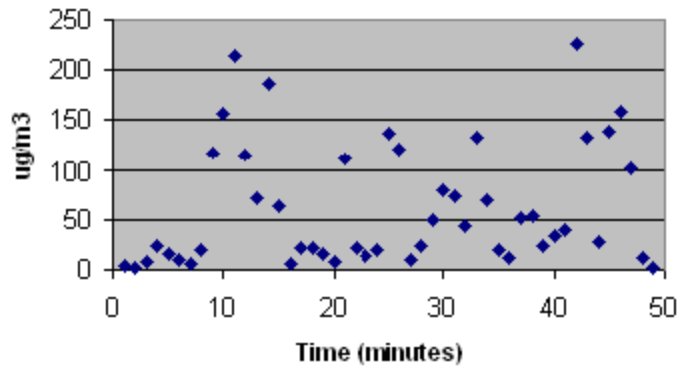
Monitoring Results

	10/17/05
Average (overall)	25 ug/m ³
Average (no car)	9 ug/m ³
Average (lead car)	62 ug/m ³
Minimum	0
Maximum	226 ug/m ³

Chalmette and Meraux PM 10, October 17, 2005



Chalmette and Meraux PM 10, October 17, 2005 Following another car



Note: The EPA regulatory standard for PM₁₀ is 150 ug/m³ over a 24-hour period. However the EPA standards for particulate matter have been determined by the EPA Science Advisory Board to be insufficiently protective of human health; the standards are in the process of being revised.

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