

# People's Health

Outcomes • Planning • Evaluation



## Know the Facts: Hazardous Waste Sites

### DID YOU KNOW?

- The most common types of hazardous waste include heavy metals, solvents, pesticides and radioactive wastes.
- As of July 2014 in the United States, there were 1,739 hazardous waste sites on the National Priorities List.
- “Superfund” is the federal government’s program to clean up the nation’s uncontrolled hazardous waste sites to protect the environment and the health of all people in the United States.
- A total of 955 hazardous waste sites in California are currently listed by Superfund.

### WHERE WE WERE (BASELINE):

In 2006, there were seven hazardous waste sites under Superfund in Shasta County, with one on the National Priority List.

### WHERE WE ARE:

As of May 2016, there were 10 hazardous waste sites in Shasta County listed by Superfund, with one on the National Priority List.

### WHERE WE ARE AIMING (HP 2020 GOAL):

10 percent reduction in the number of hazardous sites on the National Priority List (NPL).

### DEFINITION:

**Hazardous waste sites:** Byproducts of society that can pose a hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed. A hazardous waste site possesses at least one of four characteristics (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity or toxicity), or appears on special Environmental Protection Agency lists.

**Superfund sites:** A hazardous waste site covered by the program operated under the legislative authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (1980) and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act which fund and carry out the Environmental Protection Agency’s solid waste emergency and long-term removal and remedial activities. These activities include establishing the National Priorities List, investigating sites for inclusion on the list, determining their priority, and conducting and/or supervising cleanup and other remedial actions.

**National Priorities List:** The Environmental Protection Agency’s list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term remedial action under Superfund.

Hazardous Waste Sites in Shasta County Under Superfunding Listing, 2016		
Site Name	City	NPL Status
Afterthought Mine	Ingot	Not NPL
Balaklala Mine	Redding	Not NPL
Copper Mountain Mine	Redding	Part of NPL Site*
Iron Mountain Mine	Redding	on final NPL
Keswick Substation	Redding	Not NPL
Mammoth Mine	Shasta Lake	Not NPL
Mammoth Mine	Redding	Not NPL
Mt. Shasta Chlorine Tank Car Derailment	Mt. Shasta	Not NPL
Shasta Trinity National Forest	Redding	Not NPL
Whiskeytown NPS	Whiskeytown	Not NPL
* Part of Iron Mountain Mine site		

## PRIMARY PREVENTION ACTIVITIES:

- Purchase of products that contain hazardous ingredients should be reduced.
- Support California's Green Chemistry Initiative (a process for reducing or eliminating use of hazardous materials). Learn more [here](#).
- Encourage reusing or recycling materials rather than putting them in the waste stream.
- Strict regulations developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous wastes should be implemented.
- Temporary storage of hazardous waste before treatment should be done according to EPA regulations.

## From the Desk of Andrew Deckert, MD, MPH Shasta County Public Health Officer



Hazardous waste can be dangerous to our health and the environment. This can be in the form of liquids, solids, gases or sludge. They can be discarded commercial products, like cleaning fluids or pesticides, or the byproducts of manufacturing processes.

Sites containing hazardous waste are regularly listed and monitored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the most dangerous ones are listed in the National Priorities List.

People should be educated about the ways to reduce these hazards, such as California's Green Chemistry Initiative. Call your local environmental health or solid waste agency for instructions on proper use and disposal or for any other questions regarding hazardous waste materials.

*To your health!*