



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

1595 Wynkoop Street
DENVER, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

Treasure Mountain Junior High School Data Assessment

In 2014, the EPA Region VIII Emergency Response Unit received a request to assess a residential area near the historic Marsac Mill where past sampling data indicated that soil in the area may be contaminated. After consultation with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) and the Municipality of Park City (Park City) regarding the scarcity of information and the lack of existing remedial efforts in other residential locations, EPA expanded its assessment efforts to include other nearby areas such as the Treasure Mountain Junior High School (TMJHS).

EPA utilized in-situ x-ray fluorescence (XRF) analysis to evaluate the extent of lead contamination in the soil at TMJHS. The surface cover (mostly grass and infield material) was found to be intact and protective (Figure 1) but lead concentrations in the first 6 inches beneath this protective cover were elevated and found to be as great as 19,000 mg/kg (Figure 2). Lead concentrations at depths greater than 6 inches from the surface were also elevated (Figures 3 and 4).

After reviewing the data EPA has come to three basic conclusions:

- *As mentioned above there are high levels of lead contamination at the Treasure Mountain Junior High School.* Although situations vary across sites, in general, EPA uses lead concentrations of 400 mg/kg in the top foot of soil as a screening level. That is, soils with lead concentrations higher than 400 mg/kg would warrant further investigation. In this case some lead concentrations in the target zone at the School were nearly 50 times the screening value.
- *However, because the surface cover was found to be intact there is no need to take an immediate action, nor take any step that would interrupt normal school activities.* However, the sub-surface levels in some locations were quite elevated, and over the long-term could pose a threat if the barrier was compromised, or the soil disturbed.
- *Given the School District's plan to renovate, or possibly remove the School Building entirely, it would be prudent for the EPA to work with the School to manage the handling of the contaminated soil and facilitate its proper disposal.* To this end the EPA will, in conjunction with the School's actual renovation, excavate and remove contaminated soil as needed and ensure that at least 6 inches of a clean cover material exist over all areas of the property upon completion of the final project.

EPA is fully committed to mitigating the long-term threats posed by the lead contamination to the students, faculty, and other community users of the facilities at TMJHS.