



Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment

Wasatch gravel pits are serious health hazards



- There are literally dozens of industrial gravel and sand operations in Utah, many along the Wasatch Front, all which pose serious health hazards to residents.
- All are sources for large daily emissions of fugitive dust and diesel exhaust from heavy equipment.
- Wasatch Front soil shows significant contamination with toxic heavy metals,

including high concentrations of uranium and arsenic. Crystalline silica, which is ubiquitous in gravel pit dust, causes destruction of lung tissue, and can lead to lung cancer and increased susceptibility to tuberculosis.

- Residents near gravel pits experience a steady layering of dust on and in their properties, a good indicator of inhalation and an exposure that extends well beyond the typical 40 work week for operation employees.
- These residential populations often include children and babies in utero, greatly magnifying the public health consequences. Because of greater physical activity, higher metabolic rates, and hand to mouth actions, young children will be more exposed than adults via both inhalation and ingestion.
- Diesel exhaust, a proven carcinogen, is far more toxic than exhaust from gasoline vehicles. A recent landmark study indicates that long term exposure to even low levels of diesel exhaust raises the risk of dying from lung cancer about 50% for residents who live near industrial operations, and about 300% for the workers.
- The state's regulation of gravel pits is grossly inadequate. Over the next year, UPHE will be pushing for tighter regulations and also working to protect communities currently impacted by gravel pits, and in some cases, stop the construction of new ones. Ask us how you can help!



Learn more:

UPHE is now scheduling seminars! If you know of an organization (church, civic, medical, etc) that would be interested in hosting a seminar, please contact bhaynesuphe@gmail.com. For more information on “Gravel Pits” and other environmental health related topics visit our website at: www.uphe.org.

What YOU can do:

* **Join and support UPHE.** Go to www.uphe.org/ and sign up to become a member. You'll receive our newsletters, email updates, and 'take action' alerts. Your contribution enables UPHE to continue fighting for clean air. We NEVER share your information.

* **Follow us on Facebook** for up-to-date information and upcoming events:
<https://www.facebook.com/utahphysiciansforhealthyenvironment/>

* **Let your voice be heard.** Watch for opportunities to participate, announced via our website, Facebook and email.

Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment

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We can't do this work without your help! Please consider making a donation today.

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