



Chronic land contamination incident checklist

- 1) Recommendations for initial response
- 2) Recommendations for incident investigation
- 3) Recommendations for remedial action
- 4) Post incident questions
- 5) Allotment Sites
- 6) Redeveloped Sites

1) Recommendations for initial response

- Identify contaminant(s) involved
- Identify major pathways between contaminants and receptors (human and environmental)
- Ensure all appropriate organisations are aware of the incident
 - consider holding an incident control meeting
 - establish clear lines of responsibility and communication
- Restrict access to the site if appropriate

Action to protect the health of the public:

- Identify population at risk
- Consider if evacuation/sheltering of residents is necessary
- Provide information to the public as needed

2) Recommendations for incident investigation

Initial investigation

- Identify source of contamination
- Identify all potential pathways between contaminants and receptors
 - is there an aquifer used for drinking water abstraction?
 - are there plastic water supply pipes?
 - is there a river or stream used for recreational purposes?
 - is the land used to grow food?
 - are there other pathways that would transport the contaminants elsewhere?
- Undertake preliminary desk study
 - determine current past and future land use
 - collect maps and plans of the area to show geology, hydrogeology etc.
- Consider carrying out a site visit (refer to site visit checklist and report form)

Key:
 ✓ = Yes X = No ? = Information awaited NA = Not applicable



5) Allotment sites (Land used for growing food)

**Key
(page 1)**

Recommendations for initial investigation

- Identify source of contamination
 - **for acute events:** source of contamination should be easily identifiable
 - **for chronic problems:** refer to historical maps/information about past activities on the site
- Identify all potential pathways between contaminants & receptors (human and environmental)
 - what types of food are grown in the soil?
 - are there other pathways that would transport the contaminants elsewhere?
- Undertake preliminary desk study
 - collect maps and plans of the area to show geology, hydrogeology, any underground features, utility trenches, land drains, historical land use etc
 - determine direction of groundwater flow to help predict movement of chemicals through ground
- Consider carrying out a site visit (refer to site visit checklist and report form)

Action to protect the health of the public:

- Undertake assessment of public health impact
 - determine exposure amongst local residents and users of the site
 - has the wider population been potentially exposed?
 - have appropriate actions to protect the public health been taken?
- Confirm that appropriate environmental samples have been taken
 - control samples to determine 'background' levels
- Continue to provide information to the public
 - advise not to eat food grown in contaminated soil or encourage thorough washing of food prior to consumption
 - encourage thorough washing of hands following contact with the soil

Recommendations for detailed investigation

- Undertake appropriate environmental sampling to determine extent of contamination on/off site
- Sample and analyse food grown in contaminated soil (consider contacting FSA)
- Develop detailed conceptual site model
- Prepare media statement
- Consider holding a public meeting

Action to protect the health of the public:

- Develop health questionnaire to assess exposure & health impacts
- Consider whether biological sampling of exposed population is necessary
- Assist in preparation of media statement

