

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Health and Safety at Brownfield Sites

New Grantee Training

June 2015



# Why consider Health and Safety?

- Brownfields are potentially or known to be contaminated!
- Contaminants (toxins) can enter the human body in many ways:
  - Inhalation (lungs)
  - Dermal (skin)
  - Oral (gastrointestinal)
  - Injection (scrap metal through your foot)
- Also great concern for onsite safety hazards

# What do you need to do?

Get in the Health  
and Safety Mindset!

Be Aware of the Situation  
and Your Surroundings



# First things First – Danger! Danger!

*May be obvious (sorry!)*

- If you see:
  - Fumes, vapor clouds, or smoke
  - Bulging drums
- If you smell:
  - Weird or chemical odors

**LEAVE THE SITE OR BUILDING!**

# Health and Safety – Do's

DO:

- Wear good footwear
- Wear appropriate safety gear onsite
- Read site Health and Safety Plan (HASP)
  - HASP primarily for protection of contractor's workers, but visitors to the site are included & you will likely learn something
  - Send all HASPs to your EPA Project Officer!
- Stay out of exclusion zones (area in immediate vicinity of sampling/remediation work)

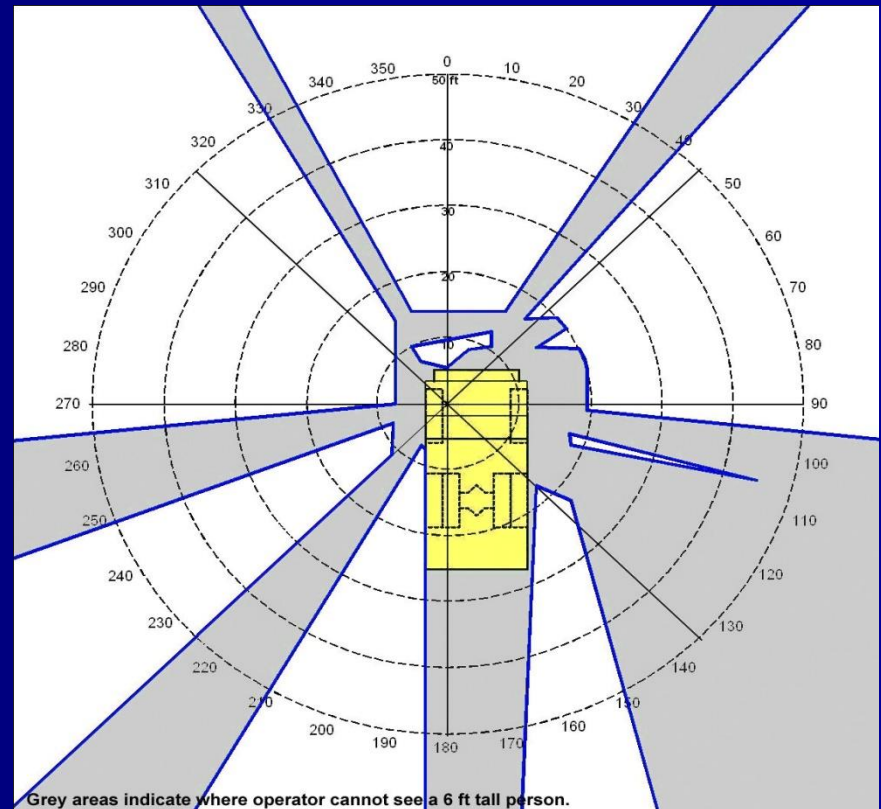
# Health and Safety – Do's

- Be extra careful around heavy equipment onsite

Blind Spots of a  
Dump Truck



All gray areas indicate where the operator can not see a 6 foot tall person.



# Health and Safety – Don'ts

## DON'T:

- Walk through standing water inside a building
- Go near hanging/dropped wires
- Walk through unknown piles
- Jump up and down on structures to show us that they are sound
- Pick up containers
- Open drums

The list could go on and on...















# Safety Gear

a.k.a. Personal Protective Equipment or PPE

Safety Gear is an eligible expense under assessment, cleanup and RLF grants

Reimbursable items:

- steel toe boots
- hard hat
- safety glasses
- ear plugs (to be worn around heavy equipment)
- ask your PO about other items



# Safety Gear

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Do you really need it?

- You will likely be excluded from certain areas during site activities (because you are not OSHA trained).

- Depends on your specific sites

- Debris falling from the ceiling – you'll want to wear a hard hat

- Hypodermic needles or sharp scrap metal – you'll want steel toe boots

We think (at a minimum), wearing steel toe boots (not high heels!) is a good idea

# Health and Safety – Recap

- Remember other outdoor hazards – sunburn, slips/trips/falls, poisonous plants, and ticks
- Be Aware of the Situation and Your Surroundings
- Read the HASP and send it to EPA
- Safety Gear is an eligible expense – protect yourself!
- Sitting through this presentation does not mean you are OSHA trained, but hopefully you are now better informed!



# Questions?

