



March 2023

Report on Aerially Deposited Lead in Soils
Dan Napier, CIH CP 2267

This report is a meta study of air monitoring conducted during excavation works at various locations throughout California. The air monitoring data was collected at various locations throughout California. All tests were conducted while operating during excavation work on soils that were contaminated with aerially deposited lead. Air Monitoring was conducted in compliance with OSHA and NIOSH Standards. All data was collected during operations using standard dust control methods. An onsite water truck was utilized to keep dust controlled. A single set of data found that failure to have adequate dust control can lead to an exceedance of the 'Action Level' in the operator's zone, but not in the adjacent work areas was noted. This data includes locations throughout the State of California the dates are indicated on the table, as well as the general location. The levels were below the detection limit for the NIOSH Method 7082 Issue 2, or NIOSH 7300, unless the dust was not effectively controlled. In that single event the dust cloud was dense, visible and persisted at the worksite. The dust cloud was clearly visible and persisted for more than thirty minutes. The level of detection (LOD) for NIOSH Method 7082 Issue 2 is 0.15 µg. The maximum air volume permitted by the method is 1500 liters of air. The minimum air volume is 200 liters and provides a LOD of 50 µg/m³. Only data that fully meets all criteria listed in California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1532.1. Lead was utilized in this study.

The report was originally presented at the American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition in 2014 in San Antonio, Texas. The additional data supports and replicates the original report.

Date	Location	Lead Content of Soil	Lead level µg/m ³
23JAN01	San Diego 405 Freeway North near the Ventura Freeway Interchange.	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <3µg/m ³
7APR04	State Route 60 @ Heacock, Four points loader operator, grade checker, upwind @ downwind	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <2µg/m ³
1APR07	State Route 23 @ kp 9.8 Five points three employee points loader operator, grade checker & water truck operator/driver, up wind and down wind	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <2µg/m ³

25OCT07	Route I 5 sb 912+00 TO 907+15. Three points, loader operator, upwind and downwind	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <2µg/m ³
22JUL08	State Route 101 near Salinas Avenue Four points loader operator, grade checker, upwind @ downwind	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <2µg/m ³
27MAY09	Lewis Road, Camarillo Four points loader operator, grade checker, tractor operator and excavator operator. Method 7105, Issue 2 was utilized for this work.	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.5µg/m ³
10AUG09	State Route 78 at Rancho Santa Fe, loader operator, grade checker, up wind.	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <2µg/m ³
28NOV11	State Route 14, @ I Street Four points loader operator, grade checker, upwind @ downwind.	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <2µg/m ³
8AUG12	08-0M8304 State Route 18, from 43 rd Street to 48 th Street, San Bernardino CA NIOSH 7300 (RL 2.5 µg)	Average concentrations below 1,000 mg/kg total lead and below 5 mg/l soluble lead.	Below detection < 5.2 µg/m ³
6AUG13	This site had dense dust clouds, the water truck was on site continuously, but it was not operated. The work presented a dense dust cloud, with significant dust remaining on the equipment. Lead levels were above the Action Level only for the loader operator, levels adjacent to the loader were below the Action Level. Work practices were corrected the following work day.	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	31 µg/m ³ on loader operator-- 10 µg/m ³ at Grade Checker
8AUG13	State Route 134 @ Bob Hope Drive, NIOSH Method 7082 (RL <2 µg)	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below detection <3.0 µg/m ³

30SEP13	I-8 at Brock Research Road, West End of Job, Loading ADL soil	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <2µg/m ³
14SEP15	163 south bound off ramp @ Clairmont Mesa, Cat operator moving ADL	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <2µg/m ³
2FEB16	State Route 91 Near Lakewood Blvd intersection, labor removing vegetation on ADL soil hand tools.	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <3.0 <0.38µg/m ³
21JUN16	I-10 Near Holt Area Sample, Removing, ADL loading trucks	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.38µg/m ³
18AUG16	I-10 Grand Avenue, West Covina 07-119304. Up and downwind of excavation	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.38µg/m ³
29AUG16	I 10 Grand Avenue, West Covina 07-119304. Up and downwind of excavation	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.38µg/m ³
14SEP16	210 Freeway 07-4X9204 samples taken East and West of work	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.38µg/m ³
20OCT16	SR 1 @ Calle-Mayor, Torrance, CA, up and downwind of work	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.38µg/m ³
19DEC16	SR 60 @ Lemon, Inside Cab of Excavator, down wind of excavation Upwind of Excavation, South of work.	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.38µg/m ³
20DEC16	SR 60 @ Lemon, Inside Cab of Excavator, down wind of excavation Upwind of Excavation	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.38µg/m ³

21DEC16	SR 60 @ Lemon, Upwind of Excavation, Downwind of excavation, inside cab of excavator. South of work	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.38µg/m ³
28DEC16	SR 60 @ Lemon, Inside Cab of Dozer up and downwind of excavation, Cab of Excavator	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.38µg/m ³
29DEC16	SR 60 @ Lemon, down wind of excavation, cab of excavator, inside dozer, up and down wind of work	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.38µg/m ³
3JAN17	SR 60 @ Lemon, Inside Cab of Excavator, south of work, upwind of work, downwind of work	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.38µg/m ³
4JAN17	SR 60- @ Lemon, upwind of excavation, downwind of work, inside cab of excavator, south of excavation	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.38µg/m ³
10OCT18	33.803330, 118.117774 Long Beach Excavator Operator Caltrans Project No. 07-286604	Average concentrations below 80 mg/kg total lead and below 5mg/L soluble lead	0.75µg/m ³
17OCT18	Location 10 Caltrans Project No. 07-286604	Average concentrations below 80 mg/kg total lead and below 5mg/L soluble lead	Below Detection <0.38µg/m ³
15NOV18	Excavator Operator Location 10 Caltrans Project No. 07-286604	Average concentrations below 80 mg/kg total lead and below 5mg/L soluble lead	Below Detection <0.38µg/m ³

16NOV18	Excavator Operator Location 10 Caltrans Project No. 07-286604	Average concentrations below 80 mg/kg total lead and below 5mg/L soluble lead	Below Detection <0.38µg/m ³
19NOV18	Excavator Operator Location 10 Caltrans Project No. 07-286604	Average concentrations below 80 mg/kg total lead and below 5mg/L soluble lead	Below Detection <0.38µg/m ³
5FEB20	Taylor Yard in Los Angeles, Water Truck Operator, Excavator Operator, Up & Downwind	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.38µg/m ³
11FEB20	I-10 Bridge No. 53-1597 at 17 th Street, Caltrans Project 07-304204, Laborer, Skid-Steer Operator, Up & Downwind	Ranges from less than 0.76 to 10,000 mg/kg total lead with an average concentration of 1,190 mg/kg total lead and 23.8 mg/l soluble lead	0.76µg/m ³
1JUN20	I-40 Caltrans Project No. 08-0R1504, Four Points	Average lead concentrations below 1,000 mg/kg total lead and below 5 mg/L soluble lead	Below Detection <0.15µg/m ³
24JUN20	Whitewater River Bridge, Whitewater CA, Laborer, Water Truck Operator, Excavator Operator, Up & Downwind	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.15µg/m ³
24FEB21	US-101 at Vermont N. Caltrans Project No. 07-311404, Water Trailer Operator, Laborer, Loader Operator, Up & Downwind	Ranges from 10 to 5,300 mg/kg total lead with an average concentration of 891.74 mg/kg total lead	0.90µg/m ³

25MAR21	US-101 John St Off-Ramp, Caltrans Project No. 05-1F9004, Laborer, Excavator Operator, Up & Downwind	Range from less than 3.6 to 7.6 mg/kg total lead with an average concentration less than 80 mg/kg total lead	Below Detection <0.15µg/m ³
26APR21	I-40 Caltrans Project No. 08-R1424, Excavator Operator, Grade Checker, Loader Operator, Up & Downwind	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.15µg/m ³
16AUG21	Ford Dry Lake Caltrans Project No. 08-1C0824, Excavator Operator, Loader operator, Water Truck Operator, Up & Downwind	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.15µg/m ³
3NOV21	32 nd Street Undercrossing Caltrans Project No. 11-425104, Skid-Steer Operator, Laborer, Up & Downwind	Range from 20.40 to 70.40 mg/kg total lead with an average concentration of 65.46 mg/kg total lead	0.22µg/m ³
23NOV21	1CR7-CR9 Caltrans Project No. 11-425104, Skid-Steer Operator, Loader Operator, Up & Downwind	Range from 20.40 to 70.40 mg/kg total lead with an average concentration of 65.46 mg/kg total lead	Below Detection <0.15µg/m ³
5DEC21	49 th Street Off-Ramp, Caltrans Project No. 11-425104, Skid-Steer Operator, Laborer, Up & Downwind	Range from 20.40 to 70.40 mg/kg total lead with an average concentration of 65.46 mg/kg total lead	Below Detection <0.15µg/m ³
20DEC21	49 th Street Off-Ramp, Caltrans Project No. 11-425104, Skid-Steer Operator, Laborer, Up & Downwind	Range from 20.40 to 70.40 mg/kg total lead with an average concentration of 65.46 mg/kg total lead	Below Detection <0.15µg/m ³

8MAR22	Caltrans Project No. 07-2332E4 I-5 McBean Parkway Undercrossing Valencia, CA	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.15µg/m ³
15AUG22	Union Pacific Railroad Yard M.P. 518.75 to 519.20 Ontario, CA	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	0.81µg/m ³
16AUG22	Caltrans Project No. 08-1C0824 Ford Dry Lake Blythe, CA	Average concentrations above 1000 mg/kg *	Below Detection <0.15µg/m ³
25OCT22	Caltrans Project No. 11-A3401 San Diego West Bound I-8 Fairmont Ave	Range from 22.1 to 294.0 mg/kg total lead with an average concentration of 65.46 mg/kg total lead	0.29µg/m ³

* Agency documents specified the material as hazardous and presumed or did not document the actual lead content of the earth material.

All levels measured were conducted by a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH), the data clearly demonstrates that excavation of ADL cannot and does not create an exposure above the 30 µg/m³ action level. The only event that could possibly trigger an exposure approaching the Action Level (AL) or Permissible Exposure Limits (PEL) would be accompanied with a dense dust cloud that persisted during the entire workday. The presence of visible dust is regulated by the local air quality districts, and the presence of visible dust is regulated by both State and Federal code. The proper use of dust control by the application of water does not create measurable levels using NIOSH Method 7082 Issue 2 or NIOSH 7300. The detection level is (0.15 µg Pb). Improper work practices such as failure to use water to control dust could create a low level of exposure, but it is readily discernable since it is accompanied by a dense dust cloud.

This is a META Study; it is based on many air monitoring incidents. The copies of the lab data and specific information is available for on-site review. The specific reports are the sole property of the Organizations that ordered the air monitoring. The information on each specific report is confidential and has been released to workers and agencies. Air monitoring data has been analyzed and reviewed by the author. Any persons who have any other data are invited to provide copies of that data in confidence. If the data meets the criteria for this work, it will be included in the next publication. Anyone who wishes to review the individual documents can make an appointment to review the documents, lab data and all notes in our office.

Respectfully Submitted;

Dan Napier, MS
Certified Industrial Hygienist