



Kelly Air Force Base Public Health Assessment Environmental Findings

ATSDR is the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. It is a public health agency in Atlanta, Georgia, with a regional office in Dallas, Texas. ATSDR gives people information about harmful chemicals in their environment and tells people how to protect themselves from coming into contact with chemicals.

Why is ATSDR involved with Kelly Air Force Base?

ATSDR received a petition from the late Congressman Frank Tejeda asking us to find out if pollution from Kelly Air Force Base (AFB) could cause health problems in people who live near the base. ATSDR looked at chemicals in the air, soil, and water in areas around Kelly AFB to see if people could get sick from exposure from these chemicals.

The Public Health Assessment is a report telling what we found. This fact sheet gives information from the Public Health Assessment about Kelly AFB. It tells the main environmental findings and conclusions from our work.

Main Findings of the Kelly AFB Public Health Assessment

Chemicals in the Air:

- The community is not **NOW** being exposed to amounts of chemicals from Kelly AFB that would cause them to get sick.
- The community may have been exposed to higher amounts of chemicals in the **PAST**. But we do not know if the levels were high enough to cause anyone to get sick.

ATSDR will look into the amounts of chemicals in the air in past years, to see if they could have caused health problems. When we finish our investigation, we will write a short report to tell you what we found.

Information about chemicals in the water and soil is on the back of this sheet.

Chemicals in Water

Shallow (groundwater) aquifer

- There is contamination in the shallow groundwater aquifer, but this is **NOT** where your drinking water comes from. The groundwater aquifer is 15 to 30 feet below the ground.

Edwards Aquifer

- Your drinking water comes from the Edwards aquifer, which is 800 to 1,000 feet below the ground. It is separated from the groundwater aquifer by layers of clay and rock. These layers of clay and rock keep chemicals out of the Edwards aquifer.

Leon Creek

- Very small amounts of chemicals were found in parts of Leon Creek. But even if you played or went swimming in Leon Creek every summer for 30 years, your risk of getting sick from the chemicals is so low, it is practically zero.

Your risk of getting sick from eating contaminated fish from Leon Creek is also very low. We would not expect someone to get sick eating the fish from Leon Creek.

Chemicals in the Soil

Community members took soil samples from yards near Kelly AFB. These samples showed there is not enough lead in the soil to cause health problems. But because this is a concern in San Antonio, ATSDR will work with the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) to tell people about lead testing and how to prevent lead exposure.

If you want your child tested for lead, or for more information about lead poisoning, call SAMHD at 210-207-8780.

If you have questions about this fact sheet, call:

Maria Teran-MacIver, ATSDR, at 1-888-42ATSDR (888-422-8737). The call is free.

Or Jennifer Lyke, ATSDR in Dallas, TX, at 214-665-8362.

