



An important Public Health Evaluation is underway under the guidance of the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center. The Public Health Evaluation is designed to evaluate the potential short and long-term health risks associated with living in the Naples area as a result of inadequate trash collection, uncontrolled open burning of uncollected trash, and widespread dumping of waste, including chemical and other hazardous waste.

Launched in 2008, the Public Health Evaluation involves the collection of air, water, soil and soil gas samples from throughout the region to identify whether there are potential health risks.

For details and background information, visit the website listed at the bottom of this page.

## Your Health: Facts for Navy Families in Naples

# About: Active Soil Gas Sampling

*The U.S. Navy is committed to ensuring our families are safe while serving our country at home or overseas. The following information is provided as part of a wide-ranging effort to understand the health risks of our personnel and families living in Naples, Italy. Currently underway is a comprehensive Public Health Evaluation to assess potential short and long-term health risks associated with living in the Naples area (see sidebar). In line with our commitment to continually share important health information, we encourage you to review the following information.*

### Why is the Navy requesting to sample the soil gas at off-base rental homes?

As part of the Naples Public Health Evaluation, the Navy is collecting soil gas samples from U.S. Government sites and off-base rental homes where Navy military and civilian personnel live and work in the Naples area. The Navy requests permission from both the tenant and landlord to conduct the sampling at the rental unit to confirm its suitability for leasing. During Phase II of the Public Health Evaluation, the Navy is collecting soil gas samples using an active soil gas sampling technique.

### Why are soil gas samples being collected?

Soil gas samples are being collected to determine if volatile chemicals may be present in the soil and/or groundwater near homes. Volatile chemicals readily evaporate at room temperature. Gasoline, dry cleaning fluid, degreasing agents (solvents) and paint thinners are several examples of products that contain these chemicals. Volatile chemicals may be found in soil and/or groundwater due to spillage onto the ground, leaks from underground storage tanks and other types of discharges. If volatile chemicals are present in soil or groundwater, it is important to evaluate nearby buildings for

possible effects from vapor intrusion. Vapor intrusion occurs when gases from the contaminated soil or groundwater seep through cracks and holes in foundations or slabs of buildings and accumulate in basements, crawl spaces and/or living areas.

### How are soil gas samples collected?

Conditions permitting, active soil gas sampling requires drilling one or two small holes, no larger than a 2 € coin, through the basement or ground floor in an inconspicuous, unfinished location. Plastic tubes connected to a vacuum cylinder and vacuum pump are fed through the hole and into the soil beneath the slab. The gas sample is then extracted from the soil underneath the slab by opening the vacuum cylinder valve and turning on the vacuum pump. After collection, the tube is removed and the hole is filled and patched.



*Active soil gas sample collection in progress.*



For more information contact:

**Environmental Health Information Center**

U.S. Naval Hospital Naples, Room 3137  
COMM: 39-081-811-6321  
DSN: 314-629-6321

**Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center**

620 John Paul Jones Circle, Suite 1100  
Portsmouth, VA 23708  
757-953-0664  
Fax: 757-953-0675

**Naval Support Activity, Naples**

Public Affairs Office  
PSC 817 Box 40  
FPO AE 09622  
COMM: 39-081-568-5907  
DSN: 314-626-5907

**How long will soil gas sampling take?**

Active soil gas sampling typically takes four to 11 hours.

**Does anyone need to be home when the sampling occurs?**

Yes. The Navy requires the landlord or tenant to be on site when sampling occurs to sign a sampling consent form, to answer a few questions and to provide access to the home and/or yard during initial sampling.

**Who will be doing the sampling?**

The sampling technicians will be employees of two companies: Tetra Tech and Sistemi Industriali. Both companies are under contract with the Navy. Tetra Tech is a U.S. company and leading provider of environmental consulting, engineering and technical services worldwide. Sistemi Industriali is an Italian environmental service company, working as a subcontractor to Tetra Tech, and provides translation, technical and logistical support. Technicians will provide residents with identification upon arrival.

**Will the sampling damage the rental property?**

The active soil gas sample will be taken either inside the home (in an unfinished and inconspicuous area) or just outside the home (near the slab) at a location which the resident and/or landlord approve. A small hole (approximately the size of a 2 € coin) will be drilled by the technicians. This hole will be patched after the test is finished, and photographs of the patched hole will be taken. If there is any immediately apparent damage (in addition to the small, patched hole), Tetra Tech will arrange to have it repaired. To the right is an example of a typical hole after it is patched.

**Will there be a cost to me?**

No. The Navy is paying for this sampling program.

**When will the sampling results be available?**

Results of the active soil gas sampling will be available approximately 14 to 16 weeks after the samples are collected. If the sampling results reveal any specific concerns, residents will be informed, and the Navy may decide to take risk management actions.

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*Patched hole in concrete.*