

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT BROWNFIELDS SITES

EPA Region 1 New Grantee Training – June 2019

Main Message: **Be Aware of the Situation and Your Surroundings**

- Brownfields are potentially or known to be contaminated!
- Also great concern for onsite safety hazards
- Remember other outdoor hazards – sunburn, slips/trips/falls, poisonous plants, and ticks

If there are immediate dangers (for example):

- Fumes, vapor clouds, or smoke
- Bulging drums
- Weird or chemical odors

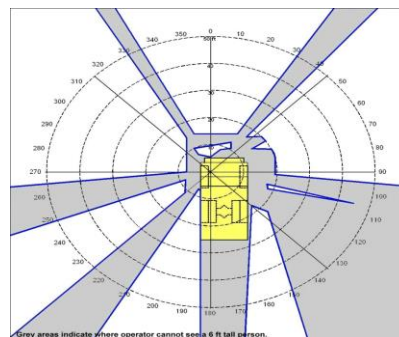
LEAVE THE SITE / BUILDING !

Health and Safety DO's and DON'Ts

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)
- Be extra careful around heavy equipment onsite (blind spots of a dump truck shown in gray below)



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 drum

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

Do you really need it?

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

However, your needs depend on your specific sites. For example, if you have:

- 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