
CONCORD PUBLIC WORKS
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DATE: February 6, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectman

FROM: Richard Reine, Public Works Director
Brent Reagor RS, Public Health Director

VIA: Chris Whelan, Town Manager

SUBJECT: CCRHS – Artificial Turf Lead Testing Results

The following information has been prepared as a result of extensive testing and analysis conducted on the synthetic turf fibers at Concord Carlisle Regional High School relative to Lead content. This effort was undertaken to provide assurance to field users that the fields pose no public health hazard with regard to Lead based on data and conclusions reached by experts in toxicology and human health risk assessment.

In September of 2008, Town officials were contacted by Boston Globe reporter, Meg Woolhouse, and informed that Lead testing took place without the Town's knowledge at the CCRHS site as well as four other locations outside of Concord. Ms. Woolhouse stated that results for the CCRHS fields indicated that levels exceeded 13,000 parts per million (ppm). Town officials immediately contacted Sprinturf, the manufacturer of the fields installed at CCRHS. Sprinturf provided a letter dated September 29, 2008 documenting third party testing which indicated independent laboratory results for Lead of less than 250 ppm.

Notwithstanding this favorable information, the Town elected to move forward with its own independent testing. This testing was supervised through Concord's Health Department, utilizing appropriate chain of custody protocols and testing methods. A sampling technician from ChemServ Environmental Analysts, a testing laboratory accredited in accordance with NELAC standards, was on-site during the November 17th sampling event to coordinate. The results of this sampling are consistent with the information provided by Sprinturf showing an aggregate level of 416 ppm.

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To provide an additional level of confidence to field users that the CCRHS fields presented no public health concern, the Town engaged the services of Dr. Laura Green of Cambridge Environmental Inc., a research and consulting firm specializing in environmental and human health risk assessments. Dr. Green was asked to review relevant data and testing results and provide an expert opinion regarding any human health risks based on lead content in the CCRHS fields.

Dr. Laura Green, D.A.B.T, Senior Scientist and President of Cambridge Environmental has extensive experience in health risk assessment with regard to synthetic turf fields. Dr. Green is doctoral graduate from M.I.T. and is board certified in general toxicology by the American Board of Toxicology. Dr. Green is a lecturer in the Biological Engineering Division at M.I.T. Dr. Green's resume' and curriculum vitae as well as information about Cambridge Environmental can be found at: <http://www.cambridgeenvironmental.com/people/green/laura.htm>.

The conclusion reached by Dr. Green states **“the measured concentrations of lead in the artificial turf in Concord are not cause for concern”**. *(full report attached)*

It should be noted that on January 19, 2009, the Boston Globe published an article titled “Looking for Lead” in which they revealed additional testing was conducted to determine the amount of lead in the turf at CCRHS.

Using the appropriate testing method, the test results commissioned by the Boston Globe showed actual lead levels of 294 parts per million, consistent with the Sprinturf and Town of Concord independent testing. This is dramatically less than the original levels stated by the Globe of over 13,000 ppm and well below any regulatory thresholds or guidance levels.