

2012 Canoe Journeys

Port of Olympia landing site

Welcome to the Port of Olympia landing!

You are visiting an environmental cleanup site called Cascade Pole. There is little risk to your health, but we do have a few suggestions to make your visit as safe as possible.

- Rinse off after wading through the water to pull your canoe in.
- Wash hands before eating.
- Wash children's hands after they play in the water or along the shoreline.
- Stay out of roped-off areas.

Am I at risk?

The county health department believes that wading, swimming, or fishing around the site does not increase your risk from dioxins.

Why should I rinse off and wash my hands?

Though the cleanup is mostly done, low levels of a chemical called dioxin remain in the mud. You should rinse off to remove any mud stuck to your hands or body.

Children tend to put dirty hands and objects in their mouths. Washing keeps them from accidentally eating the mud.

Why should I stay out of roped-off areas?

Part of the cleanup was to put contamination into covered cells, like small landfills. The sides are covered with a layer of soil and grass and plants. Sitting or walking on these areas might damage the covering.

The Cascade Pole Cleanup

For nearly 50 years, Cascade Pole ran a wood treatment plant on this site. It used a mix of chemicals called creosote.

The creosote got into soil and groundwater, posing a risk to people and the environment. The site also has some dioxins in sediments (the offshore mud).



The Port of Olympia now owns the property. It has been working with the Washington Department of Ecology to clean up the site. Cleanup work included putting soils and sediments into covered cells. The photo above shows what it looks like today.

Cleanup website: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=723>

Health information

Dr. Diana Yu
County Health Officer
360-867-2501
yud@co.thurston.wa.us



Cleanup information

Diana Smith
Ecology Public Involvement
360-407-6255
Diana.Smith@ecy.wa.gov

