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Air Force Civil Engineer Center  
Joint Base San Antonio  
Lackland Texas



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Utah Department of  
Environmental Quality  
Division of Environmental  
Response and Remediation

5 September 2025

Environmental Restoration  
AFCEC/CZOM Hill Section  
% 75th CEG/CEIE  
7290 Weiner Street, Bldg. 383  
Hill AFB, UT 84056-5003

Dear Business Occupant

The U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality – Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR) would like to alert you to the possibility that some buildings near Hill Air Force Base may experience chemical vapors coming from contaminated groundwater beneath those buildings, in a process known as vapor intrusion. According to county records, you own a business that is located within an area of groundwater contamination from Hill AFB. **As an occupant of one of these buildings, we are contacting you to provide you with information on the potential health risks associated with vapor intrusion and to offer testing to ensure you are not breathing harmful vapors.**

The primary contaminant of concern is trichloroethene (TCE), a hazardous solvent used historically at Hill AFB, with potential health risks associated with both short- and long-term exposure. **Of greatest concern, short-term exposure to TCE vapors in the first trimester of pregnancy may increase the chance of heart defects in the baby. Long-term exposure may increase the risk of certain types of cancer.** These health effects depend on the amount of TCE vapors in the air and the length of time that people breathe it.

Because of these potential health risks, Hill Air Force Base has been testing the air inside buildings in communities surrounding the base since 2003. The Air Force has previously contacted every building in the affected areas and asked for permission to sample the indoor air to determine if elevated levels of TCE vapors are present. **You are being contacted because either previous sampling has not been conclusive, or sampling has not been completed in the building. The Air Force requests that you allow testing of the air in your building.**

**In previous years, an Air Force sampling technician has placed and collected each sample from buildings. Last year, the Air Force introduced an occupant-placed sampling option so the sampling technician would not need to enter your building. The sampling technician would bring the sampling device to your door with instructions on the sampling procedure. To take advantage of this option, simply indicate occupant-placed sampling when scheduling your appointment.**

The Air Force, EPA and DERR strongly encourage everyone in the affected areas to allow the Air Force to test the indoor air. If vapors above action levels for TCE are found, the Air Force will take measures to ensure your health is protected by installing a vapor intrusion mitigation system to prevent vapors from entering the building. **All costs associated with testing, installation, and maintenance are paid for by the Air Force and are free to you.** You will also receive the written results of the test(s) to keep for your records.

If the testing results indicate that mitigation is necessary, the vapor intrusion mitigation system that would be installed by the Air Force is similar to the relatively unobtrusive and commonly used radon gas

mitigation systems used throughout the United States. The mitigation system consists of a blower fan and pipes that collect vapors from beneath your building and vent the vapors outdoors.

Testing is the only way to know whether vapor intrusion is occurring in your building. The attached information sheet explains how to have your building tested by the Air Force free of cost and answers many questions you might have about vapor intrusion. The Air Force will work with you to schedule a convenient date and time for sampling for TCE vapors, again, at no cost to you. Indoor air sampling is best conducted during the winter heating season (October to March) when the potential for vapor intrusion is highest because windows and doors are closed. We encourage you to take advantage of this free testing, even if your building has been tested before.

You can now sign up and schedule your sampling appointment online at <https://calendly.com/hafb-indoor-air/air-sampling>. If you prefer to sign up for sampling over the phone, or if you have any questions about the Indoor Air Sampling Program (IAP), please contact Julie McNeill, the program manager, at 801-586-2194. Testing and all mitigation efforts are free to you and will be paid for by the Air Force. For additional information about the Indoor Air Sampling Program, or to see maps of the affected areas, please visit [www.hill.af.mil/Home/Environmental/IAP](http://www.hill.af.mil/Home/Environmental/IAP).

Sincerely,



Mark Loucks, GS-14, DAF  
Chief, Hill Installation Support Section  
Air Force Civil Engineer Center



Aaron Urdiales, Director  
Superfund and Emergency Management Division  
USEPA, Region 8



Brent H. Everett, Director  
Division of Environmental Response and Remediation  
Utah Department of Environmental Quality

2 Attachments:

1. Air Sampling Information Sheet
2. Resident-placed Sampling Option

# Indoor Air Sampling Program

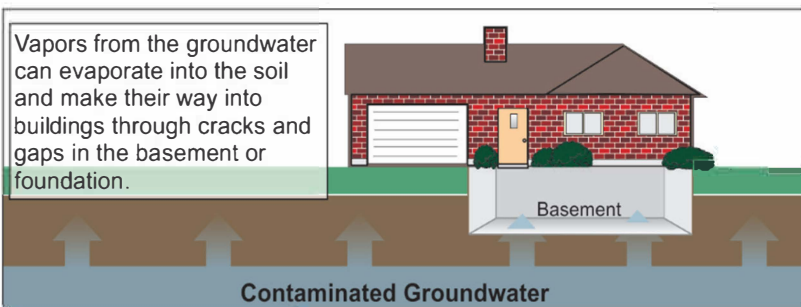
## Hill Air Force Base, Utah



September 2025

### Why is the Air Force testing the air inside buildings?

If you received this information, your home or business is located above or very near an area of groundwater contaminated with chemicals from Hill AFB. As shown in the diagram below, these chemicals can evaporate into the soil and into buildings through a process known as vapor intrusion. The Air Force is testing in these areas to see if vapors are entering buildings at potentially harmful levels.



### Hill's Indoor Air Sampling Program

In 2003, Hill began a systematic investigation to find where vapor intrusion is occurring. Over the course of the program, the Air Force has tested the air in more than 3,100 locations.

As the program has developed, much has been learned about vapor intrusion. In some cases, vapor detections are not associated with the groundwater contamination, but from sources inside the building. In other cases, vapor intrusion may have been missed because the testing occurred on a day when conditions were not favorable for vapor intrusion. The testing method has been refined to take into account different factors that could affect the validity of the test.

### Testing the air

**Because not all buildings near groundwater contamination are affected by vapor intrusion, the only way to know for sure is through testing.**

Since 2016, Hill has used a passive diffusion sampler, approximately the size of a pencil, to collect indoor air samples over a 26-day period. This longer sampling window accounts for changing conditions—such as temperature, barometric pressure, and furnace use—which can influence whether vapor intrusion occurs. As a result, this method provides a much more reliable assessment than earlier techniques.

If your building was tested before 2016 using the older 24-hour sampling method, we encourage you to schedule new testing with the 26-day passive sampler for a more accurate evaluation.



Passive Sampling Device

### How did the chemicals get into the groundwater?

When Hill AFB was established in 1940, it became home to one of the nation's largest aircraft maintenance operations. This work required solvents to clean and degrease parts. Before environmental laws were enacted in the 1970s, there were no regulations for disposing of waste solvents. As was common practice at the time, most were dumped in landfills and disposal pits.



Over time, these solvents seeped into shallow groundwater and migrated off base beneath nearby communities. While drinking water has not been affected, scientists discovered that chemical vapors were evaporating up through the soil and entering some homes. Vapor intrusion is now recognized as the primary potential route of exposure to these groundwater contaminants from Hill AFB.

### Why should I have my building tested?

The goal of the Air Force's indoor air sampling program is to **test every building that could be affected by contaminants from Hill AFB. Reasons to have your building tested:**

- **Peace of mind**  
If chemical vapors from Hill AFB are not detected in your indoor air test, you can be certain that the air you or your employees are breathing does not contain the chemical vapors linked to Hill AFB. In most cases, no further sampling will be required unless conditions at the site change. The Air Force will follow up every five years to confirm that the footprint of your building hasn't changed, as structural changes can affect the potential for vapor intrusion.
- **Identify and eliminate a potential hazard**  
If vapors are found above the action level and are determined to be linked to Hill AFB contamination, the Air Force can take steps to eliminate the threat. The Air Force has a number of proven tools available to prevent vapors from entering your building—at no cost to you.

Even if your building was tested in the past, the Air Force recommends retesting with the updated sampling method. A previous "non-detect" result from the older 24-hour testing method does not guarantee that vapor intrusion is not occurring. Until your building is tested with the new method, you will continue to receive annual reminders.



More Information Available Online:  
[www.hill.af.mil/Home/Environmental/IAP](http://www.hill.af.mil/Home/Environmental/IAP)

- Maps of sampling areas
- Official letter from the Air Force, EPA & UDEQ
- Self-placed sampling method details

Hill AFB Indoor Air Sampling Program Manager:

Julie McNeill 801-586-2194  
or [julie.mcneill.1@us.af.mil](mailto:julie.mcneill.1@us.af.mil)

# How to Sign Up For Sampling

## Now Scheduling Online

You can now sign up and schedule an appointment using your mobile phone or computer. Scan the QR code or visit: <https://calendly.com/hafb-indoor-air/air-sampling>

## Or, Sign Up By Phone:

If you prefer to sign up by phone, call:  
Julie McNeill, Project Manager  
Phone: 801-586-2194  
Email: [julie.mcneill.1@us.af.mil](mailto:julie.mcneill.1@us.af.mil)



Scheduling Link

## **What is the testing process?**

Sampling is most effective during the winter heating season (October through March), when buildings are closed up and the potential for vapor intrusion is highest.

## Preparing for Your Appointment

Before your scheduled test, you will receive a postcard reminder with general instructions, including a list of common household chemicals that must be removed from your building—including attached garages—at least one week prior to sampling. (Visit [www.hill.af.mil/Home/Environmental](http://www.hill.af.mil/Home/Environmental) for list.) These items can interfere with results. If they are not removed, testing will need to be rescheduled. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

## Sampling Placement Options

- **Technician-Placed Sampling** (Approx. 30 minutes):  
A technician will visit your building, conduct a brief survey to ensure interfering chemicals have been removed, and place the sampling device in the lowest occupied space—typically the basement.
- **Self-Placed Sampling** (Approx. 10 minutes):  
If you prefer, a technician can drop off the device at your door along with easy-to-follow instructions. The technician will not need to enter your building. Please indicate this option when scheduling.

## After Sampling

The sampling device remains in your building for approximately 26 days. After that, a technician will return to retrieve it, and the sample will be sent to a laboratory for analysis. If the results show a detection of chemical vapors, you will be contacted directly. Otherwise, you'll receive your results by mail within eight weeks.

## **What are the chemicals of concern?**

The primary chemical of concern is trichloroethene (TCE), a degreasing solvent widely used at Hill AFB in the 1960s and 1970s. Improper disposal at multiple locations led to TCE becoming the most common groundwater contaminant at Hill. Short-term exposure to TCE vapors during the first trimester of pregnancy may increase the risk of heart defects in babies, while long-term exposure may raise the risk of certain cancers.

1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA) is a similar solvent that was disposed of at a single location on-base and has impacted groundwater in parts of Layton. It is still used in manufacturing plastics, and is also believed to increase cancer risk.

For more health information on TCE and 1,2-DCA, visit: [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs).

## **What are action levels?**

Action levels are the concentrations at which the Air Force recommends steps to prevent chemical vapors from entering a building. These levels are based on health-risk data and have been reviewed and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality. They include multiple safety margins to protect even the most sensitive individuals.

Detections below the action level are not considered a significant health risk, so no immediate action is taken. However, the Air Force will offer follow-up testing the next year to ensure levels remain low. If a future test shows concentrations above the action level and vapor intrusion is confirmed, a mitigation system will be offered at no cost to the property owner.

## **Can detections be a result of something other than vapor intrusion?**

Some household products can contain TCE or 1,2-DCA—the two chemicals of concern associated with Hill AFB's Indoor Air Sampling Program. If present in the building, these chemicals may be detected during sampling.



HAPSITE

If a detection exceeds the action level, the sampling team will follow up to determine whether the source is inside the building. A specialized device called a HAPSITE is used to “sniff out” products or objects that could be the source of vapors.

Common indoor sources of TCE include degreasers, brake cleaners, electric-motor solvents, gun cleaners, and certain adhesives. 1,2-DCA can be found in items such as molded plastic figurines, home decor, and holiday ornaments.

If an indoor source is suspected as the cause of a detection, the item is removed and the building is retested. Depending on the results, further testing may be needed to confirm vapor intrusion is occurring.

For more information and examples of household items that could cause a detection, visit the Hill AFB Indoor Air Sampling Program website at: [www.hill.af.mil/Home/Environmental/IAP](http://www.hill.af.mil/Home/Environmental/IAP).

## **Mitigation options**

If vapor intrusion above an action level is confirmed in a building, the Air Force has several options available to reduce the vapor levels to below action levels. The most common option is to install a system that captures vapors from beneath the building before they can enter. Mitigation actions are done at no cost to the property owner.

## **Regulatory Points of Contact**

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8:

Julie Kinsey 303-312-7065 or [kinsey.julie@epa.gov](mailto:kinsey.julie@epa.gov)

### Utah Dept. of Environmental Quality:

Craig Barnitz 801-558-7511 or [cbarnitz@utah.gov](mailto:cbarnitz@utah.gov)  
Dave Allison 385-391-8143 or [dallison@utah.gov](mailto:dallison@utah.gov)

# NOW AVAILABLE: Resident-Placed Sampling

The Air Force is happy to offer a resident-placed sampling option, providing you with added comfort & peace of mind.

**Zero Intrusion:** Our sampling technician won't step foot inside your home. Enjoy a contactless experience!

**Simple & Secure:** The sampling device will be hand-delivered to your door, along with easy-to-follow instructions.

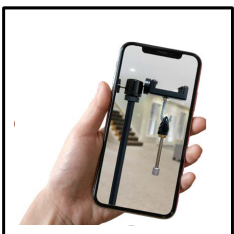
**How to Opt In:** Indicate resident-placed sampling when signing up for sampling.

Experience hassle-free sampling today!

Enjoy the convenience while ensuring the Air Force continues their commitment to your safety & well-being.  
Select the resident-placed sampling option today!



## With the Resident-Placed Sampling Option, YOU'RE IN CONTROL



Source: Beacon Environmental

### Resident-Placed Sampling Process

- At the appointed time, a sampling technician will deliver the sample equipment, provide instructions, & answer your questions.
- The sampling device should be placed in the lowest liveable space in the home, typically the basement, in a location that will be out of the way.
- The sampling device will need to remain in place for 24- to 26- days. Once in place, we ask that you do not touch or move the device.
- You will be asked to take a photo of the sampling device after placement in your selected location. You may e-mail or text the photo to the sampling technician.
- On the last day of sampling, the technician will arrive at a scheduled time to pick up the sampling device to send it to the lab for analysis.
- Rest assured that your sample will be handled with care, providing accurate & reliable data.

More information about Hill AFB's Indoor Air Sampling Program, including more details about the resident-placed sampling option, visit [www.hill.af.mil/Home/Environmental/IAP](http://www.hill.af.mil/Home/Environmental/IAP).

