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## Industrial spill confirmed in Bashaw; important precautions urged

RED DEER - Following confirmation of potential public exposure to an industrial spill of frac sand, Alberta Health Services (AHS) is asking local residents to take simple precautions to protect themselves and help prevent further exposures.

Frac sand is a very fine crystalline silica (quartz) material and can easily be mistaken for sand that can be used in children's sandboxes or playgrounds. It can pose a risk to public health through inhalation and direct exposure to the material, however, limited short-term exposure would not be expected to cause serious health effects.

The spill occurred at the Wild Rose Country Commodities site near the CN railway in the town of Bashaw. The spill has been cleaned up; however any individuals who may have removed sand from the site are asked to take the following precautions:

- Dampen the sand by misting with water to control dusts and the transmission of airborne particulates. The material should then be securely bagged and disposed of at a municipal landfill.
- Do not inhale the dust which may be created during the handling of the product. Wear goggles and respiratory protection.
- Wash clothing and footwear after handling materials; and
- Keep children away from the area while handling the material.

Anyone who believes they may have been exposed to the material should contact AHS Environmental Public Health at 1-877-360-6366.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than four million adults and children living in Alberta. Its mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans.

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