



# Crumb Rubber Issue

## Research Update

### September 2016

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#### FEDERAL MULTI-AGENCY STUDY

**Background:** In February, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Center for Disease Control (CDC/ATSDR) and the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) formally launched a multi-agency effort to study crumb rubber. This Federal Research Action Plan on Recycled Tire Crumb Used on Playing Fields & Playgrounds was issued with a 60 day public comment period.

**Scope:** The study is designed to:

- Fill important data and knowledge gaps
- Characterize constituents of recycled tire crumb
- Identify ways in which people may be exposed to tire crumb based on their activities on the fields.

**Latest News:** In August, 2016 the agencies finalized their testing protocol.

**You can find the latest updates here:**

[http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAViewDocument?ref\\_nbr=201608-0923-002](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAViewDocument?ref_nbr=201608-0923-002)

**Anticipated Completion Date:**            **NOVEMBER 2016**

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#### CALIFORNIA OEHHA STUDY:

**Background:** In June 2015, OEHHA committed under a contract with CalRecycle to conduct a new multi-year study on synthetic turf and potential human health impacts.

**Scope:** The scope of this study is:

- Identifying and measuring chemicals released from crumb rubber and artificial grass blades in indoor and outdoor fields and playground mats throughout California.
- Evaluating exposures to chemicals released from crumb rubber and synthetic grass blades through inhalation, ingestion, and skin contact.
- Evaluating the hazards and toxicological activities of chemicals released from turf.
- Developing a study protocol for measuring chemicals from synthetic turf in urine or other bodily fluids of athletes, or using personal monitors worn by athletes

**Latest News:** Based upon input from the Synthetic Turf Scientific Advisory Panel, the scope of the synthetic turf field investigation has been expanded to include:

- methods to extract as many chemicals as possible from crumb rubber samples for identification,
- the use of more suitable artificial bio-fluids (such as fluids that mimic human sweat) to evaluate the chemicals that enter the body,
- measurements of crumb rubber particle size to understand if inhalation of small particles occurs.

**You can find the latest updates on this study here:**

<http://oehha.ca.gov/risk-assessment/synthetic-turf-studies>

**Anticipated Completion Date:**            **MID-2019 (Prelim results in mid-2018)**



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### WASHINGTON STATE STUDY:

**Background:** While according to the DOH's website, "A public health risk appears unlikely based on the available research and data we have reviewed", after Coach Amy Griffin published her list of athletes with cancer, the state of Washington decided to undergo their own assessment.

**Scope:** Working with UW's School of Public Health, this study is designed to:

- Review Coach Griffin's information and verify the information using the Washington State Cancer Registry.
- Determine if there is an increased rate of selected cancers among soccer players, especially goalies compared to what is expected based on Washington state rates

**You can find the latest updates on this study here:**

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/EnvironmentalHealth/syntheticTurf>

**Anticipated Completion Date:** END OF 2016

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### EUROPEAN COMMISSION/ECHA STUDY:

**Background:** After several earlier meetings, in June, the European Commission request to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to complete an evaluation of the risk to human health of crumb rubber.

**Scope:** The scope of this study is to:

- Identify relevant hazardous substances that pose a risk to human health in relation to the use of granules in synthetic turf
- Evaluate dermal contact, ingestion and inhalation on both indoor and outdoor surfaces

**You can find more information on this study here:**

[https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13641/echa\\_rest\\_proposals\\_rubber\\_granules\\_en.pdf](https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13641/echa_rest_proposals_rubber_granules_en.pdf)

**Anticipated Completion Date:** FEBRUARY 2017

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### REFERENCES

U.S. Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs /  
Office of Management and Budget:

<http://www.reginfo.gov/public>

CA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment:

<http://oehha.ca.gov>

State of Washington Department of Health:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov>

European Chemicals Agency:

<https://echa.europa.eu>