



## [SanJuanTriangle home page](#)

### RESEARCH ON HEAVY METAL COMPOUNDS IN MINE TAILINGS AS A HEALTH RISK

No small mine tailings airborne risk to humans *was found*

**PROJECT GOAL** To stop unnecessary damage to [historical mining museum](#) mine tailings, for the benefit of all.

#### RESEARCH GOAL

The goal is to find clear scientific empirical documentation data that mine tailings by aerial (air & dust) cause harm to humans or do not cause harm. Heavy metals in water from mine tailings is well documented and is handled by multiple agencies, not part of this study. Also large open pit mines with large tailings is also not part of this study. This study is small underground local mining.

No airborne human health risk from small mine tailings.

To date the San Juan Triangle Project (SJTP) has found no public verified empirical data showing movement of hazardous chemicals compounds or molecules by airborne, air, dust or contact from small mine tailings to humans. Empirical data needed is: size, concentration and composition of airborne dust, reason for dust, location, exposure date, effect on humans (illness), how many humans tested and age, size of tailings, distance airborne to humans, verification illness came from tailings not other source. Hypothetical, assumed, generalized facts are not in any way proof that a risk does exist.

The comments here are the opinions of the San Juan Triangle Project based on the information listed below being the work of

others which may or may not be true so our assessment may or may not be true over time. SJTP is looking for solid scientific empirical data to prove or disprove any assumed risk to humans. To date no such data has been found. The lack of empirical data indicates to SJTP that there is no airborne risk to humans, however if such verified data is found, that assumption may change and will be noted here .

It is well empirical documented that heavy metals and compounds that are hazardous to humans exist in mine tailings. It is also well documented that the same chemicals and metals are a hazard to humans when in contact with humans and may or may not accumulate in the body over time. Heavy metals in water from mine tailings is well documented and is handled by multiple agencies with data and proof, not part of this study. Mine tailings vs. water issues information is available on this web site under "[Research Website Links](#)"/"EPA ACTIVITIES". This study does not apply to large open pit mining and tailings. Also eating contaminated animals or plants from mine tailings is essentially zero (not documented), and children playing on mine tailings is not part of this study. In addition most San Juan tailings are unprocessed rock chunks directly from the mines.

SJTP has found no evidence in the listed studies and contacts of mine tailings referencing the same metals, chemical molecules or compounds moving by air (airborne and breathing), ingestion (dust or eating), skin contact or other contacts to humans from mine tailings of the tailings size at San Juan County to cause immediate or long term health issues (bioavailable). However there may be other undocumented movements of metals/chemicals to humans that may be found in the future. It is noted that at this time that SJTP has found no public reports of illness or issues related to such movements of mine chemicals. Based on no public data or illness or issues, it is unlikely such other movements will be found.

The assumption that adult humans near small mine tailings are in health danger because of airborne or contact to heavy metals, chemicals, molecules or compounds is not supported by any public empirical data at multiple sources from our research. In fact there is a report that there is no risk to humans. This study does not say it never happened but if it did cause harm the risk is extremely low and we have found no data as to what may have

caused harm or what the harm was. Any issues would generate much data. Logic clearly says it is not a good idea to play on or purposely cause dust and disturb tailings for both adults and especially children. If left alone in the historical state to enjoy history, there is no risk. Repeated exposure to non toxic dust (airborne) is clearly documented in other reports, not healthy with multiple issues and not part of this study. Before any action is taken based on an assumption that there is a health risk to humans as listed in this study from undisturbed mine tailings of the size noted here, a verified scientific empirical study as listed above should be conducted and made **AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC** to verify your actions prior to such actions. [SJTP Reclamation Ratings](#). If anyone has verified data on airborne heavy metals causing harm to humans from mine tailings size under 200,000 sq ft, please contact SJTP at this web site.

SJTP welcomes any new information or request for the latest information and data on this web site.

SJTP also welcomes comments and disagreements.

Report update April 2026

Possible low panic signs: "sleeping, do not disturb tailings", "heavy metals, eating tailings not recommended", "look, enjoy, don't disturb, heavy metals". Panic signs cause trespass.

## RESEARCH MATERIAL

### Links with information

- [material](#) "No blood-lead problems at Telluride"
- [material](#) "human contact with tailings is minimal"
- [material](#) risk not analyzed Africa
- [material](#) "orange water" advertisements spam
- [material](#) no airborne data, tailings removal
- [material](#) no airborne data
- [material](#) no airborne data advertisements spam
- [material](#) large sites worldwide

[material](#) no data advertisements spam

[material](#) no data advertisements spam

[material](#) no data large sites

[material](#) no airborne data

[material](#) no airborne data

[material](#) large sites no data

[material](#) no airborne data water issues

[material](#) water data removal

[material](#) what are tailings worldwide

[material](#) blog no data

[material](#) what are stuff no data advertisements spam

[material](#) worldwide

[material](#) water issues

[material](#) general info dams

[material](#) mostly water no data

[material](#) chemicals, molecules details

[material](#) No data "No occupational exposures exceeded levels of concern",  
"below a level of concern"

Contacted for tailings risk assessment - following have no data on human risk for this study

[Tailings Center](#)

No response, **NO RISK**

[Colorado School of Mines](#)

No response, **NO RISK**

[Colorado Department of Health](#)

No response, **NO RISK**

[EPA](#)

No response, **NO RISK**

[CDC](#)

Response, **NO DATA**

[National Institute of Health](#)

Response, *NO DATA*

Multiple contacts for information, not listed here unless relevant information is supplied

True or False - Breathing under water without proper gear is dangerous. Too much water in humans is dangerous. Water kills people therefore humans should avoid liquid water.





A PDF of this report is available

**EMAIL for ISSUES** service at [sanjuantriangle.org](mailto:sanjuantriangle.org) at=@ Other contact info listed in the home web front page