



USC CLEAN Report: Post-Fire Metals in Soils at Will Rogers State Historic Park

In August 2025, Will Rogers State Historic Park personnel collected soil samples from 16 locations throughout the park and submitted them to USC CLEAN for CAM-17 metals testing. CLEAN tested these samples using benchtop X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF), which can reliably test 16 of the 17 CAM-17 metals.

What are CAM-17 Metals? 17 priority toxic heavy metals frequently tested for in industrial waste, contaminated soil, ash, and building debris from fires in California.

USC CLEAN is a free soil testing program that began in the wake of the 2025 L.A. fires and has since tested 5,000+ soil samples collected by community members across L.A. County. Learn more at bit.ly/CLEANsoil

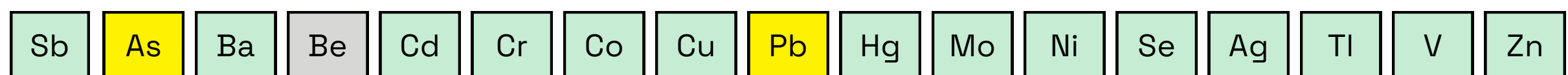
Health Risk Level: **Very Low**

For the 16 metals tested, USC CLEAN’s testing did not find significantly elevated contamination levels in soils at Will Rogers State Historic Park. The small number of samples with elevated results for lead and arsenic are largely consistent with naturally-occurring levels commonly found in Southern California soils.

For visitors: There is no indication that the analyzed metals present health risks to visitors to the park. Simple precautions like washing hands after touching dirt (especially before eating) are effective ways to minimize exposure to potentially contaminated soil.

14/16
metals below
screening levels

Will Rogers State Historic Park staff collected samples from 16 different locations across the park. Each of these samples was tested for 16 metals. Beryllium (Be), a CAM-17 metal, could not be reliably analyzed.



Across all testing, only 2 CAM-17 metals—arsenic and lead—ever exceeded state thresholds, and only in a limited number of samples.

Pb
Lead

- **13 of 16 samples** were below the California Screening Level for lead in residential soils of 80 parts per million (ppm)
- **3 of 16 samples** exceeded the state’s 80 ppm level
- **0 samples** exceeded the higher U.S. EPA Screening Level of 200 ppm

As
Arsenic

- **11 of 16 samples** were below California’s arsenic Screening Level of 12 ppm
- **5 of 16 samples** slightly exceeded the state’s 12 ppm level, but those samples ranged from 13 ppm to 20 ppm, which is **still within the range commonly found in Southern California soils.**



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