

Treasure Island or Toxic Island?

Toxic Waste

Treasure Island was a naval base laboratory for radioactive testing during World War 2.

Despite the Navy's insistence that they have taken all precautions to clean up any toxic and/or radioactive waste, it is clear residents are still facing adverse health effects in the health statistic sections to the right.

With toxic waste still present on Treasure Island, flooding from sea level rise could lead to the spread of contamination into the San Francisco Bay and other nearby coastal neighborhoods.

In March 2013, small radioactive fragments were found in the soil in the residential area of Treasure Island. *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist* obtained an internal California Department of Public Health memo which claimed that holding one of these objects for an hour would cause "radiation burn, hair loss, and possible ulceration."

Health Statistics

Hazard	Percentile in CA
Pollution Burden	85
Diesel Particulate Matter	99
Cleanup Site	100
Groundwater Threat	99
Hazardous Waste	61
Impaired Water	86
Asthma	92
Low Birth Rate	76
Poverty	93
Unemployment	77
Housing Burden	81

Percentile means where you stand in comparison with the rest of the population.

For example, Treasure Island is in the 92nd percentile for those that have asthma in California. That means within California, Treasure Island is more at risk to obtaining asthma than any other area that falls below the 92nd percentile.

Treasure Island



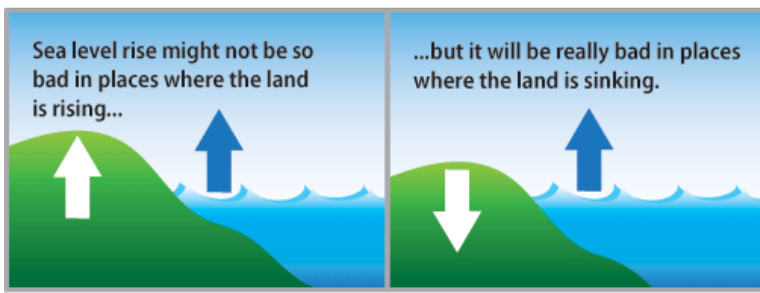
Sea Level Rise Impact on Treasure Island

Due to an increase in the temperature of our atmosphere and Earth's surface, the sea levels are rising. Treasure Island, which is an artificial island located in the middle of the San Francisco bay, will be severely affected by sea level rise and flooding.

Sea Level Rise

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Toxic and Radioactive Threat



In 2050 11 - 19 inches of water rise

In 2100 30 - 55+ inches of water rise

Sea level rise is impacting Treasure Island in the following ways:

- Treasure Island is vulnerable to land erosion, which causes sinking.
- Due to flooding from sea level rise, there is a higher potential of spread of toxic and radioactive contamination.
- Severe flooding from sea level rise overall, endangers people and communities living within the San Francisco Bay.



Treasure Island Residents Express Concerns About Health and Radiation

“The place where they found [a radioactive fragment], because it's by the kitchen window, I used to keep the window open and the kids would sit out there and do math and chalk and art [...] **I am so angry. If I hadn't been home, who would have told me?**”

- Kathryn Lundgren (via *SFGate*, 2014)

“ **My baby's got a fungus in her head that the doctor can't explain.** She breaks out in bumps, but [the Navy doesn't] have answers [...] I am so upset. I lay down at night and I say, 'What's next?'”

- Vicki Jones (via *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 2014)

“ **They didn't tell me there was radiation out there** [...] I had two cancerous tumors and went through a series of meltdowns with my health.”

- Andre Patterson (via *San Francisco Bay View*, 2018)

“I never had any health problems. [Now,] I have an enlarged heart. I have bad kidney problems. **I almost died twice.**”

- Felita Sample (via *San Francisco Bay View*, 2018)

“ **You can't grow on the island's soil**, they have to be in a bed or put with new fresh soil in a pot [...] This ground is questionable. You have to test it.”

- Robert Williams, age 16 (via *KQED*, 2015)

“I'm definitely next door neighbors to a bunch of radioactive materials. **My friends joke at me that maybe one day you might turn into Spider Man.**”

- Ben Reyes (via *KALW*, 2017)