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*If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?*

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**Note:**

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Figure 3. ATSDR's Exposure Evaluation Process

**REMEMBER:** For a public health threat to exist, the following three conditions must all be met:

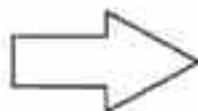
- People must come into contact with areas that have potential contamination
- Contaminants must exist in the environment
- The amount of contamination must be sufficient to affect people's health

**Are People Exposed To Areas With Potentially Contaminated Media?**

For exposure to occur, contaminants must be in locations where people can contact them.

People may contact contaminants by any of the following three exposure routes:

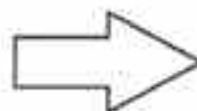
**Inhalation  
Ingestion  
Dermal absorption**



**Are the Environmental Media Contaminated?**

ATSDR considers:

**Soil  
Ground water  
Surface water and sediment  
Air  
Food sources**



**For Each Completed Exposure Pathway, Will the Contamination Affect Public Health?**

ATSDR will evaluate existing data on contaminant concentration and exposure duration and frequency.

ATSDR will also consider individual characteristics (such as age, gender, and lifestyle) of the exposed population that may influence the public health effects of contamination.