

# ABANDONED URANIUM MINES

## How to Stay Safe

Created for the Dzil Libei Elementary School, Cameron Chapter

### What do I need to know about WATER?

#### What do abandoned uranium mines have to do with my water?

Just as dust and dirt from mining areas can be bad for us, water from some wells can be unsafe to drink. It's important to drink only water that comes from places known to be safe. This **safe water** is called **regulated water**.

Some signs tell you the water is not safe to drink.

If you see this sign, **do not drink the water.**



#### Notes for Families

- Never build, gather, play, dig, or place corrals at mine sites.
- Drink only from water sources that are regulated and known to be safe.
- Use good water hauling practices to keep your water clean.
- Do not herd livestock in mine areas.
- If you think your home may have been built from mine materials, request your home be screened for radiation. Contact the Navajo Superfund Program at (800) 314-1846 for more information.
- If you would like more information about mine locations, drinking water, or EPA cleanup, please contact Amanda Pease, see the Western AUM Fact Sheet or visit the Cameron Area Mines website at: [epaossc.org/cameron\\_area\\_mines](http://epaossc.org/cameron_area_mines)

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October 2014

### What do I need to know about MINES?

Uranium mines are dangerous to play in or around. Dust, dirt and water from these areas have **uranium** and **radiation**, which can make you sick. If you see a sign like the one to the right, you should **keep out**.

#### What is a uranium mine?

A **uranium mine** is a place where people dig for the metal uranium. Uranium can be used to make energy and weapons.

#### Where are the mines?

Abandoned uranium mines are found **near the Little Colorado River** and **along the highway** that leads to Flagstaff and Tuba City. The Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Program covered some of these mines up to make them safer.

#### When were the mines made?

The mines were made when your grandparents were children, from 1950-1963. The mines are now **abandoned**.



Some mines may have signs, like this one, located behind the Cameron Trading Post.

When you see these signs, you know to **keep out**.



Some mines have waste piles like the one in this photo. If you see large piles of dirt and rocks that look out of place, **stay away**.



In this picture, a worker uses special equipment to find radiation and protect himself while he works. Knowing where these mines are and their level of radiation will help to get them cleaned up.

This map shows Cameron and areas outside of Cameron where we know abandoned uranium mines are located.

### Map Activity

1. Can you find the Legend on the map and circle it?
2. Can you find places on this map that you know?
  - Color the river **blue**
  - Color your school **orange**
  - Color the cliffs **brown**
  - Color the trading post, Speedy's and the Chapter House your favorite color
3. Can you find places on this map where abandoned uranium mines might be? **Color** these places. Remember to stay away from these areas.
4. Work with a teacher or family member to identify and mark where your house is located on the map.
5. **Color, circle** or mark any other places on this map that are important to you.

## Cameron Area Mines

