

What was the purpose of the studies?

The studies' three main objectives were to:

- Create a public record of plant operations and accidents that contributed to contaminant releases from Rocky Flats between 1952 and 1989.
- Assess public exposures to contaminants and potential health risks from past releases to communities near Rocky Flats.
- Determine the need for future studies of possible health effects.

The most important goal of the studies was to inform off-site residents about their possible exposures to materials released from Rocky Flats and the cancer risks from those exposures.

What were the major accomplishments of the studies?

The researchers:

- Developed a comprehensive history of the Rocky Flats Plant including a list of the radioactive materials and chemicals used throughout the plant.
- Determined and researched the main events responsible for contamination released off-site and estimated the amounts released during each event.
- Determined how contaminants moved through the environment and the ways in which people were exposed.
- Estimated the amounts of contaminants to which people living or working near Rocky Flats may have been exposed.
- Estimated the risk of cancer from exposure to releases from the Rocky Flats Plant.

What geographic area was studied?

Most of the Denver metropolitan area and the city of Boulder were included in the study area, which encompassed 850 square miles. The study area extended about 17 miles south, 7.5 miles west, 14 miles north and 20 miles east from the Rocky Flats site.

