

Air Pollution • Soil Contamination • São Pedro da Cova Mines



Air Pollution

The mine's waste pile in São Pedro da Cova has been burning by itself since 2005, releasing smoke and harmful particles into the air.

- Burning waste produces **fine dust** that the wind spreads to nearby homes.
- These particles can affect **breathing** and **overall health**.
- The smoke contains dangerous elements like **arsenic (As)**, **lead (Pb)**, **chromium (Cr)**, and **antimony (Sb)**.



Fine particles (PM) can affect the lungs and cause serious health problems.



Soil Contamination

Studies show that the soil around the mine contains high levels of heavy metals.

- Many soil samples **exceed Portugal's environmental safety limits**.
- A 2023 study found areas ranging from **clean** to **moderately polluted**.
- Some contaminants may cause health risks for both **adults** and **children**.



Heavy metals detected in soil

As

Arsenic

Pb

Lead

Cr

Chromium

Sb

Antimony



Air pollution and soil contamination from the São Pedro da Cova mines can have long-term effects on environmental quality and human health. Continuous monitoring and remediation are essential.

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