

## Questions related to Michael Brown on Love Canal

1. What had attracted chemical companies to the Niagara Falls area?
2. Why did Tim and Karen Schroeder's built-in fiberglass pool suddenly rise two feet in October 1974?
3. Karen's parents lived three doors down from Tim and Karen. What had been going on in the parents' basement since 1959?
4. How did Tim and Karen view their family's health problems, and what was their main concern regarding their home?
5. William T. Love's seven-mile-long canal was only partially dug when the project was halted for financial reasons. What were the dimensions of the trench that remained?
6. What was the only warning that the Hooker Chemical Company ever gave after having donated the property within and near the canal/dumpsite to the Niagara Falls school board? Were homes ever built directly on top of the dump?
7. Give two distinct reasons why the city of Niagara Falls was reluctant to deal openly and directly with the emerging toxic waste problem in the Love Canal neighborhood.

8. Describe how bad the situation had become by early 1978 for the hundred families whose properties abutted the covered trench. Why didn't the families simply move away?
  
9. In the summer of 1978, New York State declared a health emergency at Love Canal. President Carter soon followed with a federal disaster declaration, the first ever for a non-natural disaster. Overnight, Love Canal turned hazardous waste into a national issue, and, by the end of 1980, Congress had passed legislation that became known as "Superfund." Superfund increased the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency so that it could oversee the cleanup of toxic waste sites around the country. The idea was to put the EPA in a position where it could force companies that had dumped hazardous wastes to take responsibility for either the cleanup or the cleanup costs. Finalized in 1983, the first list of Superfund sites included Love Canal as one of 406—later additions would quadruple the total number of identified sites.

Do you think it was necessary for the federal government to get involved in this way? Why or why not?