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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "CHILDREN'S RASHES RENEW FEARS OF DAMAGE FROM
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Children's rashes renew fears of damage from chemical leak

SEVESO, Italy (AP) — Rashes have erupted on the skin of about 100 children here, rekindling fears of long-term effects from a chemical plant leak that sprayed Seveso and its residents with a poisonous cloud seven months ago.

Mayor Giorgio Rocca ordered several schools closed and medical checks on children.

"Anxiety and fear are growing among Seveso people," Rocca said Friday. "They are realizing that effects of dioxine might be coming to light now, months late, and they are of course scared about themselves and their children."

Doctors, however, said that the skin diseases on dozens of the Seveso children so far have not been serious.

"For many others we can only talk of suspect skin diseases resulting from pollution," said Dr. Giorgio Piccinelli, head of Milan's major dermatology institute. "Certainly chlorinacne' among Seveso children is originated by chemical pollution. They probably ate poisoned vegetables or came into contact with the chemicals."

expecting a wave of skin diseases. "And we know how to treat them."

However, the Senno sisters, Alice, 4, and Stefana, 2, have been suffering blister-like skin sores for six months. A cure has not been found despite several stays in the hospital.

Their grandmother died this week. Doctors said she suffered a liver disease whose connection with the pollution cannot be determined.

The Sennos lived in so-called Zone A, the section that suffered most when an explosion released a cloud of chemicals from the Icmesa plant on July 10, setting off an ecological disaster in this community

of 8,000 persons 12 miles north of Milan.

Alice was playing a few dozen yards from the plant, and doctors said she may have suffered a larger dose of poison than any other person.

The chemical spread over 750 acres, causing illness to 50 persons, mostly children, the death of hundreds of animals and the withering of foliage. Dozens of pregnant women underwent abortions afterward for fear of giving birth to deformed babies. About 800 persons were evacuated from the worst-

hit area, and many still live in emergency shelters. Zone A has been fenced and declared off-limits pending removal of the surface layer of the land. tion measures, in the removal of the surface layer of the land.

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