



LEAD LINES: A NEWSLETTER FOR CERTIFIED LEAD REMEDIATION WORKERS

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2008

In this Issue:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Optional Testing Locations | 1 |
| New LBP Staff | 1 |
| Lead: What's the Big Deal? | 2 |
| EPA's New Rule | 3 |
| Upcoming Refresher Classes | 4 |

Optional testing locations

Individual applicants for Inspector, Risk Assessor, Supervisor and Project Designer are required to pass the WA Certification Examination prior to becoming certified. We offer the exam at our offices in Olympia, usually on the first Wednesday of each month. While this is fine for the folks in Western Washington, it can cost both time and money for those of you traveling from the Eastern side of the state.

To respond to this need, the LBP program is developing alternate testing locations for the state certifi-

cation exams. One option is for us to send the test to a verified proctor. Most community colleges have testing centers that work well for this purpose. If the testing center requires a fee to administer the test, the applicant would be responsible for the additional charge.

After testing, the proctor would mail the test to us for grading. Another possibility for larger groups of approved applicants is to host the test at your location. A staff member from Housing would travel to your site and proctor the

test for your group. Advance notice and a mutually agreed upon testing time are required.

Certification Exams must be taken within six months of receiving your initial training course certificate, so allow yourself enough time to make the arrangements and successfully take the exam. For alternate testing possibilities, please call Diane Chrisler at 360-725-5088.

Reminders

- *Keep your residential address up-to-date with our office so we can send out renewal notices. All reminders go out six months in advance.*
- *CTED provides state certification the first Wednesday of every month.*
- *Refresher courses do not require an additional state test.*

Introducing new Lead Based Paint Staff

There are new faces in the Lead Based Paint Program. Cynthia Sanderson, Program Manager, and Diane Chrisler, Licensing Specialist, have both worked in the program for under one year.

Diane Chrisler started in June of 2007 and is the Licensing Specialist for the program. She processes the applications, proctors the monthly tests and serves as backup for the compliance and enforcement section. Prior to this program Diane worked with CTED's Housing Trust Fund. She brings to the program superior customer service and organizational skills.

Cynthia Sanderson started with the program November 1, 2007. She has an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies and a law degree from Seattle University. She most recently worked for the state Department of Military in the Emergency Management Division before joining

CTED.

Besides her environmental and regulatory background, she did investigative inspections for the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises with the certification section.

Both Diane and Cynthia are looking forward to digging in and getting the program up to speed.

The first step in this process was that Ms. Chrisler and Ms. Sanderson both took the intense combined risk assessor and inspector training from University of California Berkeley. This training was conducted out of region so that one of our accredited trainers was not favored over the rest and to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest. One more team member will be joining the program soon. The hiring process is underway for a Compliance and Enforcement person.

Lead – What’s the Big Deal?

By Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

While the overt clinical effects of lead poisoning have been recognized for 1000s of years it has taken much longer to appreciate the subtle damage that lead causes to the developing central nervous system. High levels of lead exposure can cause the brain to swell and result in death. Lead exposure results in various organ system and reproductive effects. Most importantly, experience and extensive research has demonstrated that infants and young children are highly sensitive to lead exposure. Children are not little adults, even small amounts of lead rob children of their intellectual potential by decreasing their IQ and reading ability, and permanently damaging their nervous system. There is wide agreement that there is no safe level of lead exposure for children. It is far better to prevent lead exposure of all children and to monitor the exposure of high risk infants.

The US government has acknowledged the adverse health effects of lead exposure and has worked to reduce lead exposures through regulating lead in paint and gasoline and by setting blood lead action levels. In 1990, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended action only when a child’s blood lead level exceeds 10 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$). Since then evidence has accumulated on the harmful effects below this level, but there has been no change in the recommended action level. The blood lead level that triggers action to protect a child from continuing exposure should be lowered below the current 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ to 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. This would reflect current scientific knowledge and protect children from permanent damage. High risk infants should be monitored for exposure, as legally required by Medicaid. Policies should aim to prevent lead exposure of all children. A blood lead level above 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ indicates that there is excessive environmental exposure.

In Washington there are approximately 522,000 children under six years of age. Department of Health estimates that 1.1% or 5,742 children have blood lead levels greater than 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ and that 7.7% or 40,194 children have blood lead levels greater than 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.

One thing you can do as front line workers is to remember when working around lead to:

- Protect residents and neighbors—contain the work area and use a heavy plastic, two layers of 4 mil or one layer of six mil for dust and debris removal.

- Protect your family—don’t bring lead home from the job site. Wear protective clothing, if you do use street clothing wash it separately from family laundry. Be careful not to contaminate your car, lunch box or thermos with lead dust.
- Protect yourself from lead exposure. Do not eat, drink, or smoke after working with lead without washing your hands first. Wear a respirator when appropriate.

Children are not little adults



Lead exposures can start early: pre-conception, during gestation (*in utero* exposure), via breast milk, and then through contact with the environment.

For their body weight, children eat and breathe more than adults, thus a small exposure translates into a big dose.

Their organ systems, particularly the nervous system, are rapidly forming and are thus more susceptible to the effects of lead.

Young children are prone to hand-to-mouth behaviors that expose them to higher levels of lead.

Children rely on adults to ensure that they develop in an environment in which they can reach and maintain their full potential.

Summary of EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule

EPA issued a new rule to protect children during renovation, repair and painting activities that disturb lead based paint. The new rule was signed into law on March 31, 2008.

Total implementation will take two years. During the first year, individual states will adopt and implement this new program. If a state opts out of overseeing the program then EPA becomes the administrator for the rule. No decision has been made whether Washington will accept the designation or not. Rule adoption requires support of the legislature and Governor.

During the second year, either the state or EPA begins to accredit the training providers. The training providers will start holding classes and the first generation of renovators will be ready to work in compliance with the rule.

This rule is scheduled to be enforced after April 1, 2010. It applies to housing and child occupied facilities (daycares and schools) built before 1978. The standards apply to those who conduct renovation for money, including contractors, maintenance workers in large apartment complexes, and specialty trades.

This is for a rental or owner-occupied home built before 1978 that

- houses a child with elevated blood lead levels,
- serves as a rental, or
- houses a child under age six.

This rule does not include the following:

- Owner occupied housing with no children or children over age six.
- Minor maintenance and repairs disturbing six square feet or less of painted surface per component on interior surfaces or twenty square feet on exterior surfaces.
- Renovations where specific methods have been used to determine the areas affected by the renovation are free of lead-based paint.
- Do-it-yourselfers.

All renovation projects subject to this rule would be done by a firm certified to perform renovations. That firm must employ a certified renovator.

Both the firm(s) and the individuals doing the renovation work must apply for certification and re-apply every five years.

An individual can become a certified renovator by completing an accredited training course. Certified abatement supervisors or workers already meet the requirement.

Many of the work practices outlined in the rule will be familiar. They are:

- Posting signs
- Isolation of work area from occupants or other uninvolved people
- Containing visible dust and debris to the work site
- Waste would be contained to prevent releases of dust and debris.

New practices introduced in this rule are:

- Certified renovators can provide on-the-job training for uncertified workers.
- A certified renovator would verify the cleanliness of work area using disposable dust cloths.
- Firms performing renovations must make sure that all workers are certified renovators or have received on-the-job training.

Firms performing renovation must assign a certified renovator to each project, and

- renovations must use applicable work practices,
- renovations must provide certified renovators that are on-site during key stages of a project but otherwise may be available by phone, and
- renovations may use acceptable test kits to determine if lead-based paint is present in affected areas.

E-mail: LBPIInfo@cted.wa.gov
Fax: 360-586-5880
Phone: 360-586-5323
Olympia, WA 98504-2525
PO Box 42525
128 10th Avenue SW

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY,
TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Upcoming Refresher Courses

Don't wait until the last minute!. You can take your refresher course up to six months before your expiration date.

CTED sends out reminder letters six months in advance of your expiration.

The following training providers have notified us of upcoming classes. Register early to insure your space in the class. If the classes do not have a minimum number of students registered, the class will be cancelled. Nothing is more frustrating then trying to get into a class and finding out it has been cancelled and the next available class is after your certification expires. Prevent this from happening to you-register early!

Some training providers have websites that can be accessed through www.cted.wa.gov/lead. Contact the providers directly for current class information.

Cole and Associates 1-877-455-BEAR

Lead Supervisor Course

April 30
May 30
June 26

Lead Worker Course

April 28
May 29
June 25

Oregon State University Western Regional Lead Center (541) 737-6869

Inspector/Risk Assessor Course

April 28
May 29
September 29

Lead Worker/Supervisor

April 29
May 30
September 30
