

ALPHA

American Lead Poisoning Help Association, Inc.

LEAD: Why Parents Should be Concerned...

Many parents are learning about lead through recent recalls on the news regarding toys, jewelry, candy and other imported items. Why be concerned about lead? Lead is a neurotoxin that causes brain injury. *There is no safe level of lead in the human body; the effects are permanent and irreversible.*

Lead affects development, especially from conception through Kindergarten. Lead is similar to calcium and iron, so it deposits in growing bones, brain and muscle tissue. Levels as low as 2.5 micrograms per deciliter can affect a child's ability to learn; elevated lead can cause: ADD/ADHD, autism, behavioral problems, lowered IQ, and hearing loss. Depending on your local ordinances, the health department may not conduct a home investigation until your child's lead levels above 19 micrograms per deciliter; many children are never tested. It is ultimately the parent's responsibility to understand lead.

A child can visually appear healthy and still have elevated lead levels – the only way to diagnose lead is through a blood test. It is recommended that children are tested twice, at the ages of one and two. Children who live in properties built before 1971 where renovations (including window replacement, and stripping, sanding, burning, or power washing) are planned, ongoing, or recently completed should be tested annually until they are six years old. The older the house, the greater the chance it contains lead-based paint. Why risk it? **Test your child for lead and know your child's lead number!**

Residential lead-based paints were banned by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) in 1978. The layers of paint remain, even more toxic as the oils dry out over time, creating toxic lead dust. The simple act of opening and closing a painted wooden window creates friction, causing invisible lead dust to accumulate in an area that is toddler-height. Cats sleeping in these windows can carry the dust on their fur. Dogs run through dirt that may harbor 200+ years of lead dust, tracking lead in on their paws, or on your feet and shoes. Even if every window was replaced, the lead dust remains toxic for 2,000 years. Never plant edible foods near the drip line of your house; if possible, test the soil for lead before planting a garden.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO LOCATE OTHER FAMILIES ADDRESSING LEAD IN THEIR CHILDREN, CONTACT THE AMERICAN LEAD POISONING HELP ASSOCIATION, INC. AT
WWW.ALPHALEAD.ORG
[HTTP://HEALTH.GROUPS.YAHOO.COM/GROUP/ALPHALEAD](http://HEALTH.GROUPS.YAHOO.COM/GROUP/ALPHALEAD)
[HTTP://GROUPS.MYSPACE.COM/ALPHALEAD](http://GROUPS.MYSPACE.COM/ALPHALEAD)

Post-Katrina and Lead Hazards

Hurricane season begins in a few short months, and the Gulf region is still struggling to deal with the aftermath of Katrina in 2005; lead is one of MANY hazards to address. Homeowners, volunteers and residents need to be aware of the health effects of improper lead removal and renovations (*See article on page 3 for more information on renovating*).

For those in the region, **V to the Tenth** takes place April 11-12 in New Orleans www.vday.org From 10:30 AM – 5:00 PM Friday and Saturday, visit the lead poisoning awareness booth, located in the Medical Tent at the Superdome. Lead moms Tamara Rubin (Portland, OR) and Michele Gaffney (Coppell, TX) will be on-hand to answer questions about the effects of lead on children, and distribute lead poisoning prevention information. There will also be free blood lead screening available for children six years old and younger, courtesy of the City of New Orleans Health Department.



Nancy Walker, President Coppell PTA, Leann Howell, Michelle Gaffney and Elisa Moore. The ALPHA "Lead Ladies" conducted a last-minute lead presentation February 11, 2008 in Coppell, TX after a weekend of ALPHA nonprofit and conference planning.

Sentimental Lead?

Parents are sentimental... Many of us in ALPHA have faced lead poisoning in our children in extreme levels, and we still cherish an item from the time our children were diagnosed with elevated lead, as a reminder of the last time we knew normalcy.

For Michele Gaffney in Texas, the stuffed animal her son "adopted" during the blood test that revealed his dangerously high levels of lead has become a part of her family and serves as a constant reminder of what they all went through. "Pal", their little stuffed dog, once held for comfort by her little boy during his IV Chelation and painful intra-muscular injections, became a family "pet" shared by all of her children, and now sits, worn from love, in a corner of their room. Pal is a sign of pain and heartache, but also a symbol of love and perseverance. A constant reminder to her of what a family can do in the face of such adversity.

For Liz Colon in Rhode Island, the gold baby ring she wears on a chain was a gift to her son he received while he was in the hospital during his first round of chelation. Every time she looks at it, it reminds her of the state of guilt and confusion that she faced, and she wears it proudly.

My sentimental item is a silver pinky ring I've worn every day since June 1997 when my son started oral chelation for his elevated levels.

These little reminders we each have symbolize the end of innocence for us, and the beginning of our initiation into lead, something that we will face in our children for the rest of our lives. "[The ring] is a daily reminder of my love for my kids, my motivation to get up in the morning and why I continue to fight for the voiceless kids who continue to be at risk because of corporate greed that can be prevented," adds Liz.

The first couple years I dealt with this in our lives, I didn't have ALPHALEAD. This bond has given me so much hope and strength. BM

Shannell Wimbush and her son Maurice. Her house is currently going through lead abatement in Trenton with Isles, Inc., replacing 21 windows. Maurice was poisoned almost 4 years ago.



Do you have a story to share?

May of us have had to deal with the heartbreaking and sometimes terrifying news that one or more of our children has been poisoned by lead. There are so many emotions attached to being brought into the horrible world of lead poisoning - anger, outrage, sadness and frustration. Once we learn that lead poisoning is preventable, those emotions grow even stronger. Knowing that for years children have been affected by lead and no one has been able to reach the ears of the people who can make it stop becomes more than we can stand. We all want our stories to be heard so people can see that lead poisoning is not a thing of the past. Lead affects our lives every day and will continue to harm children, wildlife, and the environment if nothing is done to stop it.

We at ALPHA realize how powerful it is to hear these stories and are asking you to share your story with us. Sadly, one voice can't always be heard, but collectively our voices are loud and strong. ALPHA would like to include these stories in a collection of works. Proceeds will benefit families affected by lead by allowing ALPHA to continue working to connect families with local resources, educate the public on the hazards of lead, and help to eradicate lead poisoning once and for all. Together we can help stop the suffering and we can help to save the lives of our children, our wildlife, and our planet.

If you would like to share your story or learn more about this project, please contact us at info@alphalead.org

I'm kind of new here and have only read a few of the messages so far... But boy can I relate - KB

Does YOUR Home Contain LEAD?

BTS Labs LeadSmart - (retail \$69.99) - **\$35.00 plus \$5 initial shipping**. Kit includes testing for two samples (soil, dust, paint chip), includes return shipping, handling & analysis.

WaterSmart Sample Kit lead (retail \$79.99) - **\$60.00** plus shipping & handling.



Contact BTS Labs at: 800-604-1995

www.BTSlabs.com

Mention "ALPHA" for discount

Thermo Scientific Lead Toy Testing

In 2007 Thermo Scientific Environmental Marketing Manager Bill Radosevich flew half a million miles, conducting lead toy testing events, training and interviews all over the US; the VP of Northwest Airlines even sent him one of their "Elite Lane" carpets for his office. Consumer Reports named Bill as "a national expert on lead in consumer products" in a December 2007 article. Since the CPSC and others have standardized testing with the NITON XL3t, the number of requests have skyrocketed!

Instead of loaning Bill, Thermo Scientific is willing to work with the public through their extensive customer base by providing training and NITON XL3t loaner instruments for public screening events. Availability is extremely limited, and they are scheduled out weeks and months in advance.

Organizations interested in hosting a screening event should contact local environmental testing firms, confirm that they are currently licensed to possess the NITON XRF, have licensed lead Risk Assessors willing to perform the testing, and are willing to commit at least 2 people per event (it really does take 2). Media promoting of events is helpful in getting the work out to the public. Email: NITON@thermofisher.com with the subject: "Consumer product screening request" for more information on this loaner program.

All Around ALPHA

Holly Ausborn of Britt, Iowa entered a lead display in her school's Science Fair, asking "Where is the lead: Do You Know?" Several parents picked up ALPHA, IPAL and Cero Gordo, Hancock, and Worth Counties Lead Coalition literature about lead, saw the lead swabs test positive on a holiday mug, and understood how small an amount of lead can harm a child. Holly and her mother Angela researched the project for several months; it's a 1st place project for lead awareness!!!

Holly's Science Fair Project



April 1-4—National Indoor Environmental Health & Technologies Conference, Charleston SC Carolina. www.leadmoldconferences.com

May 12-15—Ingestion of spent lead ammunition: Implications for wildlife and humans, Boise, Idaho. www.peregrinefund.org/Lead_conference/

My life was pure chaos. Then I stumbled across Alphalead. Finally I was no longer 'alone'. ST

The New Jersey Department of the Public Advocate is looking to interview adults who were diagnosed as lead poisoned children in New Jersey. The PA office is working on a study to show the long term physical, emotional and financial costs on a family dealing with lead and how children develop into adulthood after lead. For more information, contact Nancy Watson at 609-826-5026.

NEEDED: children ages 9 months to 6 years of age to participate in a **FREE pilot study at Cooper Hospital in Camden, NJ.** The study is comparing the accuracy of **saliva testing** and venous blood testing. To make an appointment, contact Cooper Hospital at (856) 342-2000 (hospital main number), ask for Lead Clinical Trials <http://tinyurl.com/2kxfnn>

OR

The New Women's Health and the Environment Website and Toolkits are available. Topics addressed range from: lead, pesticides (Integrated Pest Management or IPM), flame retardants in breast milk, contaminants in newborns to endometriosis, fertility challenges, breast cancer and the female lifecycle. Email **Dr. Janet Phoenix** to receive a free copy japhoenix@aol.com

OR

Mike Martin in Phoenix was a guest columnist for the Beaumont (TX) Enterprise Newspaper, responding to the apathy the reporter held for lead in an earlier article about Mardi Gras beads (see: <http://tinyurl.com/3xrkbe>). Mike's response: <http://tinyurl.com/28kgol>

Rhode Island Breaking News

In February 2006, a Rhode Island jury ordered Sherwin-Williams, Millennium Holdings (Glidden), and NL Industries to abate the lead nuisance. The RI Supreme Court is preparing for the May 15 appeal date, with the lead industry claiming they are not responsible for the lead poisoning in RI, nor did the state prove that their paints were used in RI. Over 50 public health experts and organizations, including the American Lead Poisoning Help Association, Inc., filed briefs on March 17 to reject the industries appeal to overturn the verdict. More to follow...

The Central New Jersey Regional Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Coalition annual meeting at the Sayreville Fire Academy on May 15 9:30 AM—1:30 PM, lunch provided. Scheduled to speak: **Joseph Hill** and **Ralph Spezio** from the Rochester (NY) Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning. Future meeting dates for Mercer/Middlesex Counties: July 8, October 7, January 6 (guest speaker **Dr. Bruce Lanphear**), and April 7. RSVP/more info: ALPHAlead@comcast.net

I was just wondering how many other parents are going through what I am and how they deal with the stress. DO

The ALPHA Files Newsletter is published quarterly and is intended for families learning about or dealing with lead in their children. Please copy and distribute within your communities.

Editor: Leann Howell

Contributing: Angela Ausborn, Liz Colón, Michele Gaffney, Mike Martin, Tamara Rubin

Email comments or suggestions to: Info@ALPHAlead.org

Next newsletter: June 2008

Removing the Lead Yourself—Understanding the Hazards

It's springtime, which means many of us will be starting our 'spring cleaning' and home repairs, as our paychecks allow. Before you head to the local weekend-warrior home renovation warehouse, **STOP.**



Gregory Perry demonstrates lead safe work practices in Trenton, NJ.

Has your home ever been tested for lead? Lead paint was THE choice for exterior and interior until thirty years ago, when it was banned. The older your home, the greater the chances it contains lead, especially on older wooden windows, doors, stairs, trim and porches.

Do you have small children, or are planning on starting a family soon? If you are disturbing old paint with children present, you may be causing a hazardous situation for the entire family.

"Don't Spread Lead" is a video on YouTube that shows do-it-yourselfers how to work with lead safely. The video features Norm Abram, carpenter of PBS "master carpenter of PBS's "This Old House" and host of PBS's "New Yankee Workshop." On YouTube at:
Part 1: <http://tinyurl.com/2q38yv>

Part 2: <http://tinyurl.com/3cuum6>

It's time they heard from moms like us who are personally vested in the issue. LC

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American Lead Poisoning Help Association, Inc.

You are not alone anymore...

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THIS NEWSLETTER IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT:
[HTTP://ALPHALEAD.ORG/SPRING_2008_V4I1.PDF](http://ALPHALEAD.ORG/SPRING_2008_V4I1.PDF)

ALPHA updates

The American Lead Poisoning Help Association (ALPHA), Inc. was founded in 2005 in Riverside, New Jersey. ALPHA's mission is to raise awareness about lead poisoning, and to provide a national support network for families affected by lead. ALPHA addresses all aspects of lead poisoning including prevention, education, and helping families learn what to do after their child is exposed to lead. We bring families together to network, share ideas and experiences. We are dedicated to promoting lead awareness within our communities and across the country. ALPHA is now finalizing our IRS 501(c)(3) application for submission as a tax-exempt organization.

ALPHA is currently receiving funding through the Regional Perinatal Consortium of Monmouth & Ocean Counties (NJ), Inc. to assist with childhood lead poisoning coalition building in Mercer & Middlesex Counties. ALPHA also submitted a proposal to the Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative to promote lead awareness specifically in Riverside, Burlington County. That program is anticipated to begin by June 2008, focusing on reaching families with small children through a local elementary school, by dust testing their homes for lead dust.

ALPHA currently has 61 members on the ALPHALeAD Yahoo! Group site and 24 members on the ALPHALeAD My Space group site. The ALPHALeAD.org main page has been accessed 1,786 times since 2006.

ALPHA is the proud recipient of a Lead Star Award, bestowed at the 2006 National Indoor Environmental Health & Technologies Conference. In 2007, ALPHA received a Certificate of Incorporation and is in the process of becoming a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. With your help, we can obtain our nonprofit status and achieve our goals of educating families, raising awareness, and eradicating lead poisoning.

For more information about who we are and what we do, please visit our website at www.ALPHALeAD.org

As many parents express, we feel angry and guilty and worried - CM

Coeur d'Alene Basin, Idaho: Follow-up to the East Mission Repository

In the Fall 2007 ALPHA Files, the Coeur d'Alene (CDA) Basin, Idaho article "The Battle of the Mission Repository" elicited a large reader response. Rob Hanson, Mine Waste Program Manager for the Idaho Dept of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), responded with some corrections. In an effort to ensure all facts stated are correct, the author of the original article has reviewed her research and included information provided by Mr. Hanson at IDEQ in this follow-up piece. Mr. Hanson stated that The East Mission Flats Repository (EMF) is *not* located on a registered National Historic Landmark; the area is located less than a half mile away from Old Mission State Park. According to Mr. Hanson, "we are working closely with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe archeological office to make sure historic and archeological resources are protected."

The EMF repository will hold contaminated soils from CDA residential and commercial properties; basin yard cleanups are offered if property soil contains more than 1,000 parts per million lead. According to IDEQ, "the totals for the Box are 2837 yards and 388 [right-of-way's]. In the Basin we have remediated 1891 properties... for a total of 5116." Properties where pregnant women or children under the age of seven reside are given top priority¹. Mr. Hanson wrote that "these soils are in most cases less contaminated than the underlying soil at the repository...we are not taking contaminants to a pristine area." Call IDEQ's Kellogg office at 208-783-5781 regarding testing property soil in CDA. In 2005, the National Academy of Sciences issued the Superfund and Mining Megasites: Lessons from the Coeur d'Alene River Basin Report, which concludes that "the strategy for yard remediation is supportable. However, the long-term effectiveness of this remedy in the Coeur d'Alene River basin is questionable because of the possibility, even likelihood, of recontamination²."

The Box and the Basin: which is which?

The Box: "The Box" is a 21-square mile area along I-90 in the Silver Valley in northern Idaho. It includes the towns of Pinehurst, Smelterville, Wardner, and Kellogg. It also includes the communities of Page, Ross Ranch, Elizabeth Park, and Montgomery Gulch. The Box is part of the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex Superfund Site. The populated areas of the Box are called OU1, or Operable Unit 1. The non-populated areas are called OU2, or Operable Unit 2.

The Basin: The Basin, also called Operable Unit 3 (OU3) of the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex Superfund Site, does not include the Box. It includes the mining-contaminated areas in the Coeur d'Alene River corridor, adjacent floodplains, downstream water bodies, tributaries, and fill areas. The Basin also includes mining-contaminated areas in the Spokane River upstream of Upriver Dam.

From: <http://yosemite.epa.gov>

IDEQ's Kellogg office at 208-783-5781 regarding testing property soil in CDA. In 2005, the National Academy of Sciences issued the Superfund and Mining Megasites: Lessons from the Coeur d'Alene River Basin Report, which concludes that "the strategy for yard remediation is supportable. However, the long-term effectiveness of this remedy in the Coeur d'Alene River basin is questionable because of the possibility, even likelihood, of recontamination²."

In November 13, 2007, a joint letter issued by John Lawson, Project Manager of IDEQ and Ed Moreen, Project Manager USEPA, acknowledges that "this site floods³." They also note that due to public response, the height of the 19-acre repository will top out at 34 feet, instead of the original 62-foot design. A major issue that concerns the locals is that the East Mission Flats Repository is "30% level of

¹ <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/22f04d62fa63974288256da6005f9868/206406bd92837f158825714f005ae054!OpenDocument>

² <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/accomp/coeur/index.htm>

³ [http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/7780249be8f251538825650f0070bd8b/50c39e652298f15f8825718f006057aa/\\$FILE/EMF_citizenletter_11152007.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/7780249be8f251538825650f0070bd8b/50c39e652298f15f8825718f006057aa/$FILE/EMF_citizenletter_11152007.pdf)

design, which means that the majority of the design has yet to be completed⁴ (East Mission Flats 30% Design Report, Response to Comments September 10, 2007).” With only 30% designed on a site that floods, involving hazardous material, one has to ask: *why was EMF selected as the BEST location for the repository out of 400 locations?*

According to a 2006 Power Point presentation: Bunker Hill Superfund Site CDA Basin Blood Lead Levels, IDEQ data indicates that about 1% of the children tested exceeded 10 micrograms per deciliter, as collected by a lead health intervention program, not by a designed study or experiment⁵. **In 2007, only 71 children in the Basin area were tested for lead, down from 117 in 2001⁶.** Even the EPA agreed that “screening is not mandatory in Idaho, and there is no evidence that physicians widely screen children in the Coeur d’Alene River basin... Ideally, to estimate the true prevalence of elevated blood lead in a relatively small at-risk population (like that in the Coeur d’Alene River basin), all children 1 to 4 years of age would be surveyed⁷.” Unfortunately for the residents of DCA, the rates of screening are declining, due in part to “an agreement between community leaders, the state of Idaho, and EPA, which affirmed that no studies would be conducted for “scientific research or academic” reasons... Basically, blood lead screening programs do not work well when the community is not cooperative⁸.” When asked about that “agreement”, Mr. Hanson responded by email that: “there was never a written agreement about not doing studies. The agencies heard from the Bunker Hill Task Force and the public that they didn’t want to be studied anymore. I think this was a pretty unanimous sentiment. I think the people felt like they were lab rats. So we tried to focus blood lead testing on the health service that was being provided to families and not on studies.”



Bunker Hill Zinc Plant, photo courtesy of Kellogg Bloggin'
<http://kelloqabloggin.blogspot.com/>

The population in CDA has decreased by 1/3 since the 1980 census⁹; in 1983, the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Site became the US second-largest Superfund site¹⁰, and many individuals opted to move. Dr. Gayle Eversole, founder and director of Creating Health Institute, emailed Mr. Hanson and ALPHA after the ALPHA article that she is “a concerned citizen that has grave concerns about the issues surrounding the Bunker Hill Superfund site and related issues.” On her initial visit to the area several years ago, she noted that her eyes burned, and after leaving the Basin, the burning ceased. She believes “that the overall approach to the lead health concerns of citizens in the Silver Valley area are being displaced for political reasons in regards to developers and other bureaucratic agendas.” On-line local Kellogg Bloggin’ noted in his October 15, 2006 entry: “Cancer is prevalent in the Silver Valley...

Almost all the teachers [my mom] worked with at Silver King have died of cancer¹¹.”

Removing the contaminated soil from yards is commendable. Still, the 118-year legacy of mining and smelting in the CDA Basin is a discouraging way of life. If you aren’t testing ALL the at-risk children, and there is a chance that flooding will occur like the “severe flooding in northern Idaho in 1996¹²” on a 30% designed plan, the health & welfare of this community is at stake.

According to the CDAPress.com on March 1, 2008: “The Environmental Protection Agency’s inspector general is reviewing possible mishandling of opportunities for public comment on the East Mission Flats waste dump near the Old Mission in Cataldo¹³,” due in part to lack of public input on the location.

⁴ http://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste/data_reports/mining_waste/EMF_30percent_design_report_response_to_comments.pdf

⁵ www.basincommission.com/TLG_PFT_Human_Health_Res.asp

⁶ www.basincommission.com/TLG_PFT_Human_Health_Res.asp

⁷ <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/accomp/coeur/pdfs/ch5.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/accomp/coeur/pdfs/ch5.pdf>

⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kellogg,_Idaho

¹⁰ <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/22f04d62fa63974288256da6005f9868/206406bd92837f158825714f005ae054!OpenDocument>

¹¹ <http://kelloqbloggin.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2006-11-16T14%3A18%3A00-08%3A00&max-results=50>

¹² https://fs.ogm.utah.gov/pub/MINES/AMR_Related/NAAML/Wtrshed/FortMoor.pdf

¹³ <http://www.cdapress.com/articles/2008/03/02/news/news02.txt>