



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE
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EXPO WILL TEACH PARENTS HOW TO PREVENT LEAD POISONING

Event to Provide One-Stop Shopping for Lead Safety

Federal Grants Fund City of San Diego Lead Safety Program

Parents can help protect children from lead dangers at the City of San Diego's first "Get the Lead Out! Expo," where suspect toys and other products will be screened for lead hazards, parents can have their children's blood tested for lead, and experts will be on-hand to explain how to make homes lead safe.

- The free expo is open to all and will also provide training in lead safety, furnish interactive lead safety displays, and have information booths for various community organizations.
- The event will be held Saturday, October 20, 2007, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the first floor of the City's Ridgehaven "Green Building," 9601 Ridgehaven Court, in Kearny Mesa.
- The expo is sponsored by the City of San Diego's Lead Safe Neighborhoods Program (LSNP), the County of San Diego's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP), and the Angie's List Lead Safety Tour.
- The Angie's List Lead Safety Tour, a national campaign visiting major cities, began September 22, 2007 in response to an Angie's List investigation into contractors' work that revealed unsafe work practices that could put people, especially young children, in danger of lead poisoning. For more information, visit <http://leadsafety.angieslist.com/>.
- Expo funding comes from an U.S. EPA federal grant and Angie's List.
- The expo kicks off the National Lead Poisoning Prevention Awareness week, which begins October 21, 2007.

"Sharing information and educating ourselves about how to prevent lead poisoning is an important part of keeping our children healthy. I encourage everyone in San Diego to take advantage of the free resources available during this year's 'Get the Lead Out! Expo' "

--Mayor Jerry Sanders

Lead Contamination Testing

- On-site experts and equipment will provide immediate determination if lead is present on toys or other products.
- Assistance available to determine if toys or other products are listed on national recall lists and resources will be available for participants to mail products on the recall list back to the manufacturer.

Blood Lead Screening

- Children primarily six years of age and under can have their blood lead levels tested. However, all children suspected of lead exposure are eligible for blood screening.

Information Booths

- Lead safety and other health information will be provided by the City and County of San Diego, Angie's List, Comprehensive Health Centers, La Maestra Community Health Centers, Bayside Community Center, Environmental Health Coalition, and the American Lung Association of California (San Diego Office).

Lead Training

- Property owners and managers, tenants or anybody interested in learning about lead safety can attend a two-hour training during the expo beginning at 10 a.m. in the first floor Training Room at the Ridgehaven building. Advanced registration is requested.
- On Friday, October 19, one day prior to the expo, a comprehensive U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)/EPA-approved eight-hour training geared mainly to construction and maintenance professionals will also be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Ridgehaven. Advance registration and a \$10 refundable deposit is required.
- For more information and to register for either training, visit www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/ep/leadsafe.shtml, or call 858-573-1261.

City of San Diego's Lead Safe Neighborhoods Program

- Childhood lead poisoning is the number one preventable health problem facing children today.
- In the last two months, the LSNP been funded by more than \$1.3 million in competitive federal grants, including a \$1 million HUD "Healthy Homes" grant.
- For more information on the LSNP and facts on lead poisoning, visit www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/ep/leadsafe.shtml.

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