



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL EDICT: NO SAFE LEAD LEVEL FOR CHILDREN

City of San Diego launches “Get Leaducated” campaign as part of
2012 National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (Oct. 21-27)

Is Your Home Lead Free? Take the Free City of San Diego Online Quiz

SAN DIEGO, Oct. 22 -- Nearly 310,000 properties in San Diego built before 1978 may pose a lead poisoning risk especially for children. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) determined recently that there is no safe level of lead exposure for children. Medical evidence shows that even very low levels of lead exposure can have a significant detrimental impact on a child’s IQ, likelihood of having a learning disability, and decreased success in school.

According to the CDC, at least four million households in the U.S. have exposed children to lead dangers, and approximately 500,000 one- to five-year old children have elevated blood levels.

In support of the annual lead poisoning awareness week, the City of San Diego, Lead Safety and Healthy Homes Program (LSHHP) has various activities and events to continue to deliver this important message that lead hazards in our environment need to be identified and eliminated before children are exposed.



A new “Get **Leaducated**” campaign kicks off Oct. 19 with mailings and advertisements to remind everyone about the dangers of lead. The campaign invites city residents to the City’s website for information on how to be lead safe. Residents can take a free online quiz to see if their home has lead hazards. Residents may qualify for a grant that provides free home repairs to correct lead paint hazards.

(MORE)

City of San Diego; Get **Lead**educated Campaign
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The quiz is located on the LSHHP website at www.SDHealthyHomes.org. LSHHP serves as the primary liaison for connecting the San Diego community with resources to prevent lead poisoning, and collaborates with other agencies such as the San Diego Housing Commission to protect young children from lead hazards.

Since 2004 the LSHHP has eliminated lead hazards through enforcement in 1,391 housing units. The San Diego Housing Commission has eliminated lead hazards in 1,300 housing units since 2003 through various grants and programs.

“Our goal is to make housing lead safe for our children,” said Mayor Jerry Sanders. “I urge San Diegans hire only licensed lead-safe renovation contractors to perform renovation, repair or painting work if the work will disturb paint on a pre-1978 home.”

The City urges calling 858-694-7000 or emailing Lead-Safe@sandiego.gov to file a confidential complaint if tenants in pre-1978 housing or apartments containing deteriorated paint that has been left uncorrected by the landlord, or if San Diegans see anyone unsafely disturbing paint in older buildings.

The California Department for Public Health this month awarded the Lead Safety and Healthy Homes Program a two-year grant of \$337,728 to perform lead hazard enforcement and to assist other county enforcement agencies to develop lead hazard enforcement programs.

Other events during the lead poisoning awareness week:

- Oct. 23: Councilmember Marti Emerald will sponsor a proclamation for Lead Poisoning Prevention Awareness Week at the 10 a.m. City Council meeting, City Administration Building, 202 “C” St., 12th floor.
- Oct. 24: Informational meeting on proposed amendments to the Lead Hazard Prevention and Control Ordinance, Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, 2 p.m., City Administration Building, 202 “C” St., 12th floor.
- Oct. 25: Noon to 4 p.m., children can get free blood lead testing, 841 S. 41st Street, San Diego, 92123. The event is sponsored by the County of San Diego and various community partners.



*City of San Diego urges residents to get
“Lead*educated.”

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