



The Environmental Health Publisher

Keeping you in the Lead, Radon & Healthy Homes loop

Connecticut Department of Public Health

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2016



National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is October 23—29!

Look out for an email requesting local health department activities

Local Health Department Highlight: Meriden

During the Spring and Summer of 2016, Sanitarian Rodney Delgado and Public Health Nurse Sue Camarata performed home visits in areas that are of high risk for lead poisoning in Meriden. These areas were identified with GIS maps using cases from previous years. This “door to door” program assessed eight homes for lead issues. Delgado and Camarata spoke to six tenants about lead and asked about whether the children had been lead screened. They also conducted four visual inspections, provided educational materials to tenants, and left door hangers (printed double-sided in English and Spanish) at the properties they were unable to access. The hangers described general lead poisoning prevention information, along with the contact information for the local health department.

Go team!

If your health department has a particular project or activity you would like to highlight in this newsletter, please contact your case manager or Christine Hahn



Get Ready: January is National Radon Action Month

The best time to test for radon is during the months of November through March. Encourage your communities to test for radon, the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers. To partner with DPH, contact Allison Sullivan at DPH.RadonReports@ct.gov.

Lead, Radon and Healthy Homes Semi-Annual Meeting

Monday, October 24
9:00 am-12:00 pm
Tunxis Community College, Founder’s Hall
271 Scott Swamp Road, Farmington

The 2017 Annual Radon Partner’s Conference

Tuesday, January 10
8:30 am—12:20 pm
Prospect Fire Department
26 New Haven Road, Prospect

RRP Reminders: How to Follow-Up on Complaints

The Lead, Radon and Healthy Homes Program would like to remind our local health department code enforcement officials about some important key points relating to the Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP). All too often, companies are not RRP certified or when certified, do not use lead-safe work practices. Protecting the public's health is our priority, which includes ensuring that Connecticut's contractors are working lead-safe on residential and child occupied facilities.

What would you do? You receive a phone call from a parent whose complaint references a contractor "sanding and scraping painted shingles near the playground" at a childcare facility.

**ALTHOUGH CONNECTICUT IS NOT AN RRP ENFORCEMENT STATE,
THE RRP RULE DOES APPLY!**

Some Helpful RRP Facts

Any renovations of a pre-1978 dwelling or child-occupied facility such as a house, a school or a childcare facility **MUST use an RRP certified firm (company) to complete the renovation activities.** This rule applies to projects that:

- ◆ Disturb > 6 square feet of interior painted surfaces (per room)
- ◆ Disturb > 20 square feet of painted exterior surfaces (total)
- ◆ Involve window replacement

The RRP certified firm must employ RRP-certified renovators. It is the firm's responsibility to distribute the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) *Renovate Right* pamphlet to residents, building owners or adult representatives/owners of a child-occupied facility before any renovations begin.

The RRP certified firm must also register their company **every five years** with EPA. Additionally, **all RRP certified renovators** must take a four hour RRP refresher course **every five years**.

Action Steps for a Local Health Department:

1. Issue a cease and desist (where applicable)

2. Verify the contractor's credentials

- The company must be a registered Home Improvement Contractor with the CT Department of Consumer Protection, be registered with EPA as an RRP firm, and the company's employees should have up-to-date RRP renovation certifications

3. Work with the property owner or childcare facility to correct any hazards that have been created

- Notify DPH, and when applicable, the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood Daycare Licensing Division
- Work with the property owner or childcare operator to facilitate risk communication with residents or parents of program attendees
- Clean: use a commercial grade HEPA vacuum to clean up any large debris, wet clean areas with any potential dust and re-clean all areas with a commercial grade HEPA vacuum (consider hiring a RRP certified firm or a lead abatement contractor, depending on the severity, especially if paint chips or lead dust were created)
- Conduct a visual inspection once cleaning has been completed. Collect clearance dust wipes on any interior areas that may have been affected
- Issue a letter of compliance ensuring that no visual hazards or dust hazards remain

4. When in doubt, please call DPH for guidance