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May 2007

Dear Iola Resident:

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) will be in Iola, Kansas May 11 and 12 to offer free blood lead screenings for children 6 years and younger who live in Iola, Kansas. The screening is to identify properties where children may have been exposed to high lead levels in soil. The free blood lead screenings will be held at the Iola Fire Department on Friday May 11th from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday May 12th from 8:00 a.m. - Noon. In order to get your child's blood tested, a consent form must be completed and signed prior to screening. Consent forms can be obtained and completed at the Fire Department.

Lead poisoning in children can cause harmful health effects such as permanent brain damage causing behavioral problems, developmental delays, a lower IQ, and kidney damage. Most lead poisoned children do not look or act sick. The only way to know if your child has lead poisoning is to have them tested.

Everyone participating in the blood screening event will receive goody bags, including a coupon for a free ice cream cone/dish from Sonic (*Coca-Cola*). Every participant will also be entered in a drawing for a WalMart gift card or a healthy homes tool kit. The tool kit includes a carbon monoxide monitor, a smoke detector and a HEPA vacuum.

If you have any questions regarding the blood lead screening process, please call Michelle Miller with KDHE Toll Free at 866-865-3233 and/or Jill Shugart or Denise Jordan-Izaguirre with ATSDR at 913-551-1313.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been checking residential yards for lead contamination in Iola, Kansas since April 2006. The contamination is the result of lead smelting operations which occurred from 1902 - 1912 by the United Zinc and Chemical Company. EPA has tested approximately 1,560 residential yards for lead contamination, and has removed contaminated soil from 96 of those yards. The EPA priority for removing lead contaminated soil is as follows:

- Areas where large populations of children play or reside, such as schools and daycare facilities with high concentrations of lead in soil.
- Properties where children with high blood lead levels reside.
- Properties that have the highest levels of lead contamination in soil.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding EPA activities in Iola, please contact Belinda Young Toll Free at 800-223-0425.