1195767 - R8 SDMS

Silver Bow Creek / Butte Area

2010 Residential Metals Abatement Program Activities

Bulletin #13 **April 6, 2011**

Butte-Silver Bow (BSB) Health Department Completed 65 Abatement Projects in 2010

- **3 interior living spaces**
- **38 residential attics**
- **24 residential yards**

The Residential Metals Abatement Program (RMAP) aims to reduce risk from exposure to high metals levels. RMAP is designed to sample and remediate (if necessary) all residential properties in the Butte Priority Soils Operable Unit. The Butte-Silver Bow Health Department performs continuous metals abatement activities in the Butte area through the RMAP. Children living at or frequently visiting properties that exceed action levels, help determine the order of the abatement projects.

Abatement projects are performed when lead levels in soils and dust are greater than 1200 mg/kg (parts per million)) and/or arsenic is greater than 250 mg/kg and/or mercury is greater than 147 mg/kg.

Testing

Blood lead screening is available to all residents of Butte-Silver Bow. The Butte Women's, Infant's and Children's program (WIC) gives special attention to screening children. WIC staff routinely performs finger stick capillary collections. If a collection result is more than 9 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood, it is confirmed with a venous collection before the child is documented as having an elevated blood lead. Of the 693 blood lead screenings performed between January and December 2010, one venous collection was confirmed having a blood lead level more than 9.9 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood; the elevated blood level came from a non-environmental source of lead. RMAP staff contact each family of a child with an elevated blood level and arranges for an environmental assessment. The RMAP includes Case Management for children with elevated blood levels, to work with the family and/or landlord to assure that the child's environment is not a source of lead contamination. Case management includes home visits, education for the family, and timely follow-up lab testing.

To ensure that the BSB Health Department provides accurate and appropriate environmental screening and testing for the residents of Butte, the Health Department staff has attained EPA lead supervisor/contractor and risk assessor certification.

Environmental assessments

Environmental assessments are offered to all WIC clients and expedited if potential exposures are identified during the interview process. Environmental assessments are performed to identify potential sources of lead, arsenic and mercury exposures. Environmental assessments consist of soil testing, attic dust testing, interior dust testing and X-ray fluorescence testing for lead-based paint. The residences where exposures are identified during the environmental assessment process are prioritized for abatement. The Health Department conducted 251 environmental assessments in 2010. In addition to environmental assessments, the Health department informs families about potential exposure to contamination.

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Education and Outreach

The Residential Metals Abatement Program (RMAP) works in conjunction with the medical community - particularly pediatricians and the WIC program- to inform the public about risk, health monitoring, nutritional information, and the Program's activities. Education and outreach specifically address portions of homes that pose a risk for potential exposure. The RMAP relies on educational materials and face -to- face consultations to ensure homeowners, remodeling contractors, home inspectors, potential buyers, and weatherization workers are aware of the following:

- The potential presence of lead, arsenic, and/or mercury in attics or basements.
- The importance of restricting access to those areas by sensitive populations (young children and pregnant or nursing mothers), and taking the appropriate measures to ensure that dust is not tracked into the interior living space.
- The proper communication protocol prior to implementing any remodeling project and/or landscaping project to ensure that dust and soil are appropriately handled and taken to an approved disposal facility.

The RMAP engages in a range of education activities

- **Distribution of Educational Materials to**
  - **Local Contractors**
  - **Hardware/Lumber Suppliers**
  - **Childcare Facilities/Programs (e.g. Head Start)**
  - **Housing Authorities (e.g. Human Resource Council –Section 8 and LIEAP)**
  - **Local Realty Agencies**
- **Informative Presentations**
- **Periodic Mailings**
- **Events (e.g. Community Health, Fitness, and Safety Fair)**
- **Public Service Announcements**

Do you Need More Information?

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