

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is October 21-27, 2007

News this summer that the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recalled millions of toys after determining they contained excessive amounts of lead recently elevated the issue of childhood lead poisoning in the United States. In fact, the CDC estimates nearly half a million children living in the U.S. have blood lead levels high enough to cause significant damage to their health.

Despite the ever-threatening presence of lead in the environment today, lead poisoning is entirely preventable. To increase awareness of childhood lead poisoning prevention, Sutter County, is participating in National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) October 21—27 along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

This year's NLPPW theme, "Protect Our Most Valuable Resource—Our Children," underscores the importance of preventing lead exposure *before* children are harmed to prevent lead poisoning's serious health effects, such as brain damage, learning and behavior problems or even death.

In commemoration of NLPPW, events such as state proclamations, free screenings, lead-awareness community events, and educational campaigns will be conducted nationwide. Contact Sutter County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 822-7215 for information about NLPPW activities.

There are many ways parents can reduce a child's exposure to lead. First and foremost, hazards in a child's environment must be identified and controlled or removed safely. Sources of lead include:

- Dust and chips from paint in homes built before 1978
- Ground soil
- Various imported goods, such as toys, Mexican candy, traditional ceramics, children's jewelry
- Some drinking water
- Folk remedies

More information about preventing childhood lead poisoning is available from your local health department at 822-7215 or www.co.sutter.ca.us

Media Contacts

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