

# HEALTH BEAT

Summer 2014

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

The East Helena Lead Education and Assistance Program (LEAP), formally Lead Education and Abatement Program, has existed for almost 20 years. LEAP, in conjunction with the City of East Helena and Lewis and Clark County, has accomplished a great deal during this time. When the LEAP was created, ASARCO was still in operation, homeowner yard remediation was ongoing and blood lead levels in area children were above the national average.

More than 500 children in the East Helena area have had their blood tested for lead through the LEAP. Over the years, blood lead levels have dropped and are currently at or below the national average. Through collaboration with Lewis and Clark County, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the citizens of East Helena, area children's lead exposure has been dramatically reduced.

The LEAP has changed its name to reflect the program's evolving mission in the East Helena area. The main program focus has changed from cleaning up properties to assisting area residents with how to live and work safely around lead. Even with property clean-up, exposure to lead remains a risk to area residents as not all area properties were or will be cleaned-up.

Over 700 residential properties have been remediated (cleaned up), but there still remains lead in the soil that children and adults could be exposed to. LEAP staff, along with EPA, Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), City of East Helena, Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health (BOH), and area residents drafted a soils ordinance to protect the public and the environment through education and a permitting process. The BOH adopted the "Regulations Governing Soil Displacement and Disposal in the East Helena Superfund Area in Lewis and Clark County, Montana" in June 2013 after an extended public-participation process.

Since the adoption of the regulations, LEAP staff have given certification training to 293 individuals; have issued 50 soils permits; and have reviewed 591 (811) utility locates in the East Helena area. Both certification training and soils permits are free, and LEAP staff work with residents to make the process as easy as possible.

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**The LEAP office is hosting an Open House to celebrate the first year of successful implementation of the soils ordinance. It will be July 29th from 4 until 6 p.m. At 306 E. Main Street, East Helena in the parking lot and in Room 201. Cake and refreshments will be provided. Hope to see you there.**

Lead Program  
P.O. Box 1231  
East Helena  
59635

Postal Customer 59635

ECRWSS  
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EPA Permit No. G35  
Helena, MT

**Frequently Requested Phone Numbers & Websites:**

**East Helena Lead Program:**  
406-457-8583

**Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department and Cooperative Health Center:** 406-443-2584

Lewisandclarkhealth.org

**City of East Helena:** 406-227-5321

www.easthelenamt.us

**EPA:** Betsy Burns is the Project Manager for the East Helena Superfund Site, her number is: 406-457-5013

**MT Dept Of Environmental Quality:** Daryl Reed is the contact for DEQ, his number is: 406-841-5041

www.deq.mt.gov

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**A soils permit is required when the following conditions are present:**

1. The property where soil work is being done has lead concentrations at or above 500 parts per million (ppm) and the work will disturb or require disposal of more than 1 cubic yard of soil.
2. The property where soil work is being done has not had any lead sampling and the work will disturb or require disposal of more than 1 cubic yard of soil.

Permits are good for two years after the date of issue.

**A soils permit is not required when:**

1. A property has soil lead concentrations less than 500 ppm.
2. A project does not disturb more than 1 cubic yard of soil.
3. A project is preparing an area for gardening, and no soil will be removed from the property.

**Certification training** is required for anyone disturbing or disposing of more than 1 cubic yard of soil, regardless of the soil lead concentrations. Certificates are good for two years after the date of issue.

The soils permit application can be found at the LEAP office, 306 E. Main Street, Room 201, East Helena, MT 59635 or online at: <http://www.lccountymt.gov/health/environmental-services/lead-education/soil-displacement-permit-application.html>

The Regulations Governing Soil Displacement and Disposal in the East Helena Superfund Area in Lewis and Clark County, Montana can be found online at: <http://www.lccountymt.gov/health/environmental-services/lead-education.html> or in Room 230, 316 N. Park Avenue, in Helena.

If you have any questions concerning soils permits or certification call Debb Tillo or Jan Williams at 457-8583.

