



LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY
Health Department

**306 E. Main
East Helena 59635
Ph: 406-457-8583
Fax: 406-457-8573**

LEAD EDUCATION AND ABATEMENT PROGRAM

East Helena, Lead Education Program Poised to Begin Exciting New Phase

This marks the first year in more than two decades that trucks will not be bustling through East Helena cleaning up lead-contaminated properties. The Superfund program is entering a new phase: the remedial design phase.

The East Helena Lead Education and Abatement Program (LEAP) is also evolving. We'll continue to make safeguarding the health and welfare of local residents our top priority. But instead of focusing on the oversight of property cleanup, we'll now shift our attention to protecting what has been accomplished so far. We'll be working with the Environmental Protection Agency and other stakeholders to develop and implement what are called institutional controls.

LEAP has been a part of the East Helena community since 1995, and we're proud of the work we've done on your behalf. We've provided free lead education, health intervention and childhood blood screening, environmental assessments, and soil sampling for families and properties in the Superfund area.

As a program of the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department, we maintain an office in East Helena; in fact, we recently moved into City Hall. We try to listen to the concerns and needs of local residents by hosting Lead Program Advisory Meetings and attending East Helena City Council meetings. We also participate in and contribute to various East Helena functions, including the Christmas Stroll, Halloween Stroll, and Easter Egg Hunt. If you see us out and about, please stop and say hello; we welcome opportunities to visit with you, our neighbors.

We've had the pleasure of educating local children through schools and day care centers. And we've reached out to new mothers through delivery of "new baby packets" that contain liquid soap, sponges, baby bibs, sippy cups, outlet covers, refrigerator magnets, and note pads. These visits have given us an opportunity to sit down one-on-one with moms to discuss their concerns about living safely around lead.

We've also conducted more than 200 free environmental assessments in homes, including sampling yard soil, interior dust, drinking water, and lead-based paint to identify potential sources of and pathways for lead exposure. You can still request an assessment by calling LEAP at 457-8583

Since coming to East Helena, we've screened more than 1,400 individuals for blood lead levels. Most have been children 6 or younger and pregnant women, because they are most susceptible to the harmful effects of lead. The East Helena Superfund site has seen a significant drop in blood lead levels in part because of our hard work and that of the EPA.

We'll continue to inform buyers and sellers of local property, Realtors, and lending institutions about site-wide and property-specific lead conditions.

We also will continue to distribute more than 3,500 quarterly newsletters to residents in the East Helena area. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, call Debb or Jan at LEAP, 457-8583.

All of this effort has helped pave the way for EPA to delist the Superfund site in the near future. It also has opened the door to redevelopment of our lively and close-knit community. We're excited to move forward with you into this promising future.