FORT CAMPBELL ENVIRONMENTAL HANDBOOK
Guidance & INstruction
LEAD-BASED PAINT

WHAT IS IT?

Lead is a heavy, soft, malleable bluish metal. It generally occurs in nature in the form of ores. Once mined, processed and introduced into man's environment, it is a potential problem forever. Because of its chemical and color properties, lead has been used as a pigment for paints. Lead in the body can cause serious damage to the central and peripheral nervous systems, cardiovascular system, and the kidneys. Lead can affect every system in the body. The effects on intelligence and behavior are the most important, especially for children. Exposure to high concentrations of lead can cause retardation, convulsions, coma, and sometimes, death.

Structures built before 1978, especially those built in 1950 or earlier, are believed to contain paint with high levels of lead. Excessive lead levels may be found in some paints, water, dust and soil surrounding a painted surface. Housing and child care centers are particular areas of concern. Lead dust is believed to be the most likely cause of lead poisoning in children. Young children are especially susceptible to lead dust because they engage in many hand-to- mouth behaviors. Interior lead paint dust can come from the normal abrasion of painted surfaces such as opening and closing windows and doors. Lead from chalking and sluffing paint on the exterior of houses can accumulate in the soil around homes and be carried inside by foot traffic, thereby, increasing the levels of lead dust in the home.

Over the last two decades, the Federal government has taken a number of key actions to reduce risks associated with lead exposures. One was banning the use of lead in house paint. This action plus many others have been very effective in reducing major sources of lead exposure.

To protect society from exposures and the associated risks, major efforts to control and contain, or remove deteriorating lead based paint must be performed. By using proper techniques and work procedures, the risk to lead-removal workers and the environment will be greatly reduced.

At Fort Campbell a program is being implemented that will initially focus on child care facilities and Army family housing units.

CURRENT REGULATIONS

Several Federal agencies are charged with regulating lead-based paint products and wastes.

Most notably among these agencies is Housing And Urban Development (HUD). HUD has developed extensive guidelines for hazard lead paint hazard identification and abatement practices. Their guidelines have set a standard for the industry.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have focused upon worker protection with medical monitoring and training focal points.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates the management and disposal of lead-containing paint wastes. Upon disposal, lead paint, unless still attached to the building component, will be characterized as hazardous wastes. The EPA has also set training requirements, specifically for abatement supervisors.

The Department of the Army has set goals for identification of lead paint in target facilities. Target facilities are those built prior to 1978 and where small children may live in or spend a lot of time.

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BUILDING MANAGEMENT

To deal with lead-based paint at the unit level, develop a good program for facility management. This means that:

a. Good housekeeping is practiced, and
b. Maintenance, repair, renovation, removal, and self-help work requests are submitted and monitored for completion.

Be aware that lead paint may be on any painted surface particularly in industrial facilities. Still, lead paint should not have been used on Fort Campbell in the last several years. It was further banned from residential use by the Consumer Product Safety Commission in 1978.

Surveys of target facilities on Fort Campbell, as of Feb 1996, have been completed except for the school system. Other facilities have been surveyed and this will continue to support maintenance, repair, and construction projects or health concerns. Direct any question on survey status to PWBC/Service Division (SD), 798-0591/0124 or PWBC-Environmental Division, 798-9597/9637.

PWBC/SD should also be called prior to any self-help projects. Upon submitting any self-help work request, SD will evaluate it for lead-based paint concerns and schedule an assessment if needed.