



*Land of Natural
Wealth and Beauty*

News Release

For Immediate Release

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07-35-C

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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October 22, 2007

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (CDPH) ADVISES CONSUMERS NOT TO USE CDPH LUNCH BOXES (Revised)

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued an advisory regarding lunch boxes distributed as an educational item by CDPH nutrition programs, and after testing found elevated lead levels in three (3) of the canvas lunch boxes.

“Lead is toxic to humans, especially infants and young children,” says Jean Ayers, Public Health Nurse with the Butte County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

Consumers are advised to stop using them and keep them away from young children. The CDPH further advises consumers to return the lunch boxes to the place where they got them, or to take them to their local household (hazardous) waste collection facility for disposal. CDPH is conducting further evaluation on this and other promotional items distributed by the department. No known cases of lead poisoning have resulted from use of the lunch boxes in Butte County.

For the convenience of Butte County residents, Butte County Public Health Department has arranged for drop-off sites throughout the county. The following is a list of local collection sites for Butte County residents to dispose of these lunch boxes:

Butte County Public Health
695 Oleander Avenue, Chico
Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

WIC Offices (Women, Infant and Children Program)
1311 Mangrove Avenue, Chico
82 Table Mountain Blvd., Oroville
Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Butte County Environmental Health

202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville
Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Cal Fire / Butte County Fire Station

47 E. Gridley Road, -Gridley
Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Paradise Fire Department

767 Birch Street, Paradise
Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

These collection sites will take the lunch boxes until the end of November (November 30, 2007).

County Household Hazardous Waste facilities can also take lunch boxes;

Butte Regional Household Hazardous Waste

1101 Marauder Street, Chico
Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**City of Oroville Household Hazardous Waste Facility
Operated by Norcal Waste Systems of Butte County**

2720 South 5th Avenue, Oroville
First and Third Fridays of the month 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Please contact Maggie Johnson, Compliance Manager, NWSBC at mjohnson@norcalwaste.com if you need additional information regarding the Oroville Household Hazardous Waste Facility

If parents or caregivers believe that their child may have been exposed to lead, they should consult the child's pediatrician about getting a lead test. A lead test is the only way to know if a child has been exposed to lead. Most children with elevated lead levels have no symptoms. The primary source of lead poisoning of children in the U.S. are through contact with old deteriorated lead-based paint in housing, lead contaminated house dust and lead contaminated bare soil in and around homes built before 1978.

Here are some tips on what parents and the public can do to decrease the risk of lead exposure in children:

- Stop children from coming in contact with lead hazards and removal of known lead hazards.
- Keep house paint in good shape and fix any deteriorating paint promptly.
- Frequently wash a child's hands, pacifiers, and toys; damp mop floors, and solid surfaces to minimize exposure to lead.
- Avoid using home remedies or cosmetics that contain lead.

- Take basic steps to decrease exposure from lead dust when remodeling, repainting or doing home repairs in a home built before 1978 or if your work or hobbies involve working with lead-based products. Hire a lead safe contractor.
- Don't let your child play in bare soil, cover with grass or other coverings.
- Get a blood test if concerned your child has been exposed to lead.

For more information regarding exposure to lead, you can contact the Butte County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 891-2732 or 1-800-339-2941.

If you have questions about the lunchbox collection plan please call Butte County Environmental Health Division at 538- 7281 and ask for any of the Hazardous Materials Management inspectors.

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Butte County Public Health Department

Our Mission: To protect the public through promoting individual, community and environmental health.