



## SRP TOOLBOX MEETING LEAD AWARENESS

The following information **should only be used as a reinforcement**, not a substitute for OSHA mandated lead awareness training. Use the following information during safety meetings or toolbox meetings.

SRP Safety Trainers use a combination of audiovisual presentations and state of the art equipment to produce real life, on the job scenarios, and hands on real life situations to provide each individual with a better understanding of safety on and off the job.

SRP has been providing customized safety training programs for companies in the oil and gas, construction, agricultural and manufacturing industries for over 20 years. With eight convenient locations throughout Colorado, Hawaii, Louisiana, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Texas, SRP can service your entire organization with a streamlined approach. Other services include Safety Audits, Safety Program Development, Online Compliance & Verification and Site Safety Health Officer.

For more information about SRP's safety services please call us at (866) 222-4972 or [visit us online](#).

We look forward to hearing from you!



## **SRP TOOLBOX MEETING LEAD AWARENESS**

Despite its high toxicity, lead remains a common material in numerous industries. Overexposure to lead can lead to lead poisoning. This involves the accumulation of lead in the body, leading to interference with normal functions and development, involving a number of different organ systems within the body.

### **ROUTES OF ENTRY**

Lead is primarily introduced to the body via:

- Inhalation, when the air contains lead dust or fumes.
- Ingestion, when lead-contaminated materials, including food, beverages, cosmetics, and tobacco products enter the body via the mouth.

### **SYMPTOMS**

- Abdominal pain, vomiting, and constipation
- High blood pressure
- Joint or muscle pain
- Declines in mental functioning
- Pain, numbness, or tingling of extremities
- Headaches
- Memory loss
- Mood disorders
- Fertility issues in both men and women, including harm to fetuses

### **LEAD IN CHILDREN**

The human body is unable to distinguish lead from calcium, which makes lead especially dangerous in the still-developing bodies of children. It can cause permanent harm to bones, muscles, and the brain during fetal development, as well as hamper future development in children.



## TREATING LEAD POISONING

Lead can take anywhere from months to decades to leave the body on its own. Treatment may vary depending on the severity of the case: patients with lower lead levels may simply need to avoid further exposure to lead, while more severe cases may require chelation therapy or other medical treatments.

If you think you may have lead poisoning, alert your supervisor immediately and seek medical attention.

## HOUSEKEEPING

Assure that work areas stay free from lead accumulation.

- Follow a regular schedule for clearing lead-containing dust and debris from work areas.
- Use vacuums with HEPA (high-efficiency particulate arresting) filters.
- The use of compressed air to remove lead from contaminated areas is prohibited.
- Sweeping or scraping dry lead dust is prohibited.
- Wet lead dust before collection to minimize its dispersal in the air.
- Seal all lead dust and debris in impermeable bags or containers that are labeled as containing lead waste.
- Make sure eating and break areas are in a lead-free area.

## PERSONAL HYGIENE

Personal hygiene is essential to avoid spreading lead throughout the worksite or into your home. Take precautions to prevent the spread of contamination.

- Wash hands, faces, or other exposed body parts before eating or taking breaks, or at the end of work shifts.
- Change out of lead-contaminated clothing immediately after leaving exposed areas. Ideally, there should be on-site shower facilities between the contaminated clothing change room (which is closest to the workplace) and the clean clothing change room.
- Avoid taking lead-contaminated clothing home and intermixing it with general laundry. Lead contaminated clothing should be properly bundled and sent to a specialized laundry facility that is aware that the clothing is lead contaminated.