BTMED news

SUPPORTED BY THE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT, AFL-CIO • COORDINATED BY CPWR - THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH & TRAINING

Volume 8, Issue 2 Fall 2013 www.btmed.org

Oak Ridge/Hanford Workers Offered CT Scan

Lung cancer has been a deadly disease, but that may be changing. Although 160,000 Americans die from it each year, a national study recently found that a new CT scan technique can detect lung cancer at an earlier stage. Since then, BTMed has been in the forefront of developing cutting-edge procedures to offer the most advanced screening for lung cancer to our participants. We started in 2011 at Oak Ridge, and this year expanded it to Hanford. The effort relies on low-dose CT scans to identify lung cancer at its earliest stages when the potential for effective treatment is greatest. We are partnering with universities to provide participants the best diagnostic and follow-up treatment, and we are introducing what is known as "ultra low dose" scanning procedures to minimize radiation dose. By doing this, we think we can increase the survival rate from 16% today to over 80% while reducing unnecessary surgery from 25% to less than 5%.

Scans are currently offered to former Oak Ridge and Hanford construction workers who have participated in BTMed, had a re-screening in the last 3 years, are over the age of 50, worked at the DOE site for at least 5 years, and have a history of smoking and occupational exposure to known lung cancer risk factors. More than 200 participants have been scanned and the findings include many suspicious lung nodules that required follow-up, two participants with stage IV lung cancer, a kidney and renal cancer, and other health issues.

A low-dose CT scan is done with the patient lying very still on an exam table. The patient passes through the x-ray machine, which is shaped like a doughnut with a large hole. The machine rotates around the patient and a computer creates images from the scan that can be reconstructed into a 3-dimensional model of the lungs. The amount of radiation is significantly less than that absorbed during a diagnostic CT scan of the chest. The testing takes less than 10 minutes to complete.

Former Hanford worker, Bob Irwin, prior to his CT Scan.

BTMed is working to expand CT scanning availability to other DOE sites and hopes to add additional sites in the months to come. If you worked at Oak Ridge or Hanford and meet the eligibility criteria call BTMed for more information. It is part of our efforts to provide you with the latest and very best medical care available.

Has It Been 3 Years Since Your Last BTMed Exam?

BTMed offers free re-screenings every 3 years to its participants.

If it's been over 3 years since you received your BTMed exam, call 1-800-866-9663 to schedule your re-screening.

Worker Escapes Eternal Graveyard Shift

Laborers Local 265 Member Takes Advantage of Re-screen, Sees Different Light at End of Tunnel

"If it hadn't been for BTMed, I'd be lying in the grave right now," Walter Christian says about his participation in the Building Trades National Medical Screening Program. He'd had no symptoms other than fatigue, which the 67-year old retired laborer thought was nothing more than a product of growing older. Then he found out he had a tumor of the worst kind. It was malignant. And awfully aggressive.

Christian had worked through the remediation years on the Department of Energy's (DOE) Fernald site in Ohio. They were years spent taking down buildings and burying contamination. That's why he enrolled in BTMed once he heard about the free medical screenings the Program offers former DOE workers. He went in for his first screening back in 2006, and again in 2010 since BTMed participants are eligible for a re-screening every three years. Then in 2013, Christian once again picked up the phone and scheduled an appointment. This exam, however, turned out to be far from routine.

Retired laborer Walter Christian on vacation with his wife.

"Blood was found in my stool when I went in for my physical this year and I got an urgent call saying I had to go to my doctor immediately," Christian explains. "If I'd waited, I wouldn't be here talking to you to today." Upon visiting his doctor he received a colonoscopy and endoscope, which revealed a Stage II bleeding tumor in the top part of his colon. Fortunately, it hadn't moved beyond the intestine. He went directly in for surgery to have the tumor fully removed.

Now, Christian is on the mend, saying he can "see light at the end of the tunnel." No doubt a different light than the one he managed to avoid. "Thank God for BTMed. Otherwise somebody else would be driving my car, riding in my boat," he says.

"We worked our whole lives to enjoy our later years. What a shame it would be to waste that because you won't pick up the phone and call BTMed to get your screening." Two days after speaking those words, Walter Christian sent BTMed a picture of what he would never waste: the time he gets to spend with his wife.

BTMed Covered Sites

Amchitka Test Site	GE Evendale	Mound Plant	Rocky Flats
Battelle Labs - King Ave.	Hanford Reservation	Oak Ridge Reservation	Savannah River Site
Battelle Labs - West Jeff	Idaho National Lab	Paducah GDP	Weldon Spring
Brookhaven National Lab	Kansas City Plant	Pinellas Plant	Yucca Mountain
Fernald Plant	Mallinckrodt	Portsmouth GDP	Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

And other Department of Energy sites.

1-800-866-9663

www.btmed.org

Building Trades National
Medical Screening Program
c/o CPWR - The Center for Construction Research and Training
Sean McGarvey, President
Brent Booker, Secretary-Treasurer
8484 Georgia Ave., Suite 1000
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Washington, DC
Permit No. 5968

© 2013, CPWR.

This publication was produced by CPWR through funding from the Department of Energy (DE-FC01-06EH06004). The information provided here is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of DOE.