



CPWR – The Center for  
Construction Research  
and Training

Building & Construction  
Trades Department,  
AFL-CIO

Duke University  
Medical Center

University of Cincinnati  
Medical Center

Zenith American Solutions

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Serving Construction  
Workers from the  
following DOE sites:

Amchitka

Argonne-West

Ashtabula

Battelle Labs – King Ave.

Battelle Labs –  
West Jefferson

Brookhaven  
National Laboratory

Brush Luckey

Fernald

G.E. Evendale

Hanford

Huntington Pilot Plant

INL

Kansas City Plant

Mallinckrodt

Mound

National Energy Tech  
Laboratory

Oak Ridge

Paducah

Pinellas

Piqua

Portsmouth

Rocky Flats

Savannah River Site


Shippingport

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Weldon Spring

Yucca Mountain

## Building Trades National Medical Screening Program

P.O. Box 900960 ▪ Seattle, WA 98109 ▪ 1-800-866-9663 

### SOLVENTS

*If you have been exposed to solvents, it is important to monitor your health.*

#### What are solvents?

- Solvents are liquids that dissolve other substances. They are used to thin or mix paints, inks, and pesticides. They are also used as cleaners, degreasers, and paint strippers. Solvents are found in thousands of products at work and at home.
- There are two main ways solvents can get into the body and cause harm: breathing in vapors from solvents evaporating into the air, and absorbing solvents through the skin. The solvents easily pass right into the bloodstream.
- Working around small amounts of solvents over many months can injure your health; so can one very high exposure to solvents.

#### What were we looking for in this exam?

We looked for damage to the nervous system, kidneys, and liver. Working with solvents for long periods of time can cause difficulty concentrating, memory loss, and mood changes. Certain solvents can cause you to lose feeling in your feet and hands.

#### What did my results show?

The tests showed that you have some signs of nervous system damage or other health problems that may have been caused by solvent exposure. We recommend that you see your own doctor for follow-up tests. We will provide your doctor with your exam results and information on special tests to expand on our findings.

All your results are confidential, as defined in your Consent Statement.

#### What should I do now?

See your own doctor or a specialist if follow-up tests have been recommended.

If you still work around solvents, follow all available precautions to protect yourself. Wear protective gloves and a respirator if one has been provided to you.

Get regular medical check-ups.

#### What if I have more questions?

If you still have questions, ask your personal physician. Or call our toll-free number at 1-800-866-9663. We will refer you to a professional who can answer your questions.