BTMED news

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Re-screening Exams Now Available

The re-screening exam offered by the Building Trades Medical Screening Program (BTMed) may detect health problems that have developed since the first medical screening. One of the most important ways to assess your health status is to look for changes in test results. These tests are extremely important for construction workers who worked at any of the Dept. of Energy (DOE/AEC) sites listed on right.

Has it been 3 years since your initial screening with the Building Trades National Medical Screening Program?

If so, then you may be eligible to receive a re-screening exam.

If you are a BTMed participant at one of the sites listed below and it has been 3 years since your first screening exam, please ***call*** **1-800-866-9663** to set up a re-screening exam.

Amchitka
Brookhaven
Fernald
Hanford
Idaho National Laboratory (INL)
Mound
Oak Ridge
Paducah
Pinellas
Portsmouth
Savannah River Site

Re-screening exams began recently for Portsmouth and Paducah construction workers, while the BTMed is expanding re-screens to also cover former construction workers at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Fernald, Idaho National Laboratory (INL), Mound, and Pinellas, bringing the total number of sites offering re-screening exams to eleven. Amchitka, Hanford, Oak Ridge, and Savannah River Site have been continually offering re-screenings for the past three years. Re-screens will be available to workers from other eligible sites when its been three years since the initial exam.

"I definitely think it's important to keep getting checked. There was so much stuff out at the Battelle Labs that they don't want you to know about. That's why I'm trying to get some of these other guys to sign up for the program.**"**

Roark Hyer, SMW Local 24, Battelle Labs

Covered DOE/AEC Sites

Amchitka
Argonne West
Battelle Labs (King Ave & West Jeff)
Brookhaven
Brush Luckey
Fernald
GE Evendale
Hanford
Huntington Pilot Plant
Idaho National Laboratory (INL)
Kansas City Plant
Mallinckrodt
Mound
Oak Ridge
Paducah
Pinellas
Piqua
Portsmouth
Rocky Flats
Savannah River Site
Weldon Spring
Yucca Mountain

97.4%
Satisfaction Rate Among Our Participants!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 1-800-866-9663 OR VISIT WWW.BTMED.ORG.

High Beryllium Exposures Found in Brookhaven Workers

The Program has discovered that former construction workers of Brookhaven National Lab are almost **4 times more likely to test positive for beryllium** than workers at all other DOE facilities where we have conducted screenings.

Beryllium exposure primarily affects the lungs. Skin disease with poor wound healing and rash or wart-like bumps can also occur. Exposure can cause an immune reaction (sensitization) that can lead to lung disease known as berylliosis, or chronic beryllium disease (CBD).

Testing positive for beryllium sensitivity does not mean a worker has chronic beryllium disease (CBD), but it does indicate a risk of developing it.

Most DOE construction workers say they don't know if they have been exposed to beryllium because many times they unknowingly worked in the same buildings where manufacturing processes involving beryllium occurred where they unknowingly inhaled beryllium dust or fumes. There are two sources of exposure:

1. Beryllium dust from using spark-resistant tools could also have developed in tool chests and tool rooms where they are stored.
2. Beryllium exposure could have come from dust during tasks involving repair, maintenance, renovation and demolishing of buildings where beryllium production has been done.

Any worker employed at a DOE facility with one positive BeLPT test result may be eligible for medical benefits under EEOICPA.

When we first found these beryllium results at Brookhaven, we contacted the site management and encouraged them to look into possible sources of exposure. Since then BNL site safety, health, and occupational medicine staff have taken many steps to determine possible sources of exposure and provide better protection. We have met with BNL staff to further discuss these findings.

It is an important objective of BTMed to use its findings from former workers to improve safety and health protections for current and future workers. Use of the Brookhaven results is one example of this objective being put into action.

Other than the beryllium findings, other occupational health tests, such as x-rays, hearing tests and breathing tests showed results similar to or slightly less than the average for all DOE sites combined.

For more information go to www.btmed.org.

Meet the Fernald Outreach Office

Lou Doll has been the Outreach Manager at the Fernald Outreach Office since its inception in 2005 and has enrolled over 1,750 construction workers into the Program.

Lou, on the left, sporting an award.

What is your work experience out on Fernald?

"21 years (1983 – 2004) out of the Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 392. As B.T. Site Representative, I was site steward for Building Trades and represented the Cincinnati Building Trades in union matters with the Department of Energy, Fluor, subcontractors, and the workers."

How has your past work experience helped in conducting interviews?

"My knowledge from working in all areas and buildings at the site allows me to help participants with time lines, buildings, projects and exposures."

As a former Fernald worker, what was your first impression of the medical screening process?

"The work history interview process was thorough and gets better as we interview more workers and gather more information on the plant. The medical screening or "physical" is not only geared to industrial exposures but also is an excellent general health assessment."

What is your role in the medical screening process?

"I contact members to schedule interviews and physicals, distribute program materials through mailings, union meetings, picnics and other venues to potential participants that worked at DOE plants. I also work with unions to help members with potential claims for illnesses that will benefit both workers and benefit funds."

What is the most rewarding aspect of your role?

"Medical Screening provides early detection of illnesses potentially caused by work at DOE sites. The ability to identify and treat these illnesses in the early stages saves lives. We have had numerous instances where the workers, because of the screening, received treatments for illnesses they otherwise would not have known about. "

If you worked at Fernald, Mound or GE Evendale
Contact Lou at 513-681-0864
for information about enrolling in the *BTMed*

BTMed Findings on Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, Blood Glucose

In 2005, the program began to offer re-screening exams to any worker for whom it had been more than three years since their first exam. The re-screen, which is very similar in format to the initial exam, also includes testing for blood pressure (hypertension), cholesterol and blood glucose.

This is what we have found:

- On the first exam, 35% of participants were high for hypertension, 51% for cholesterol, and 39% for blood glucose.

- On the second exam, of those who had high levels on the first exam, 58% were normal for hypertension, 53% were normal for cholesterol, and 44% were normal for blood glucose. **See Fig. 1.**

The fact that 50% of participants who tested high on the first exam but normal on the second, suggests that most building trades participants will act on warnings about their health in order to get their conditions under control.

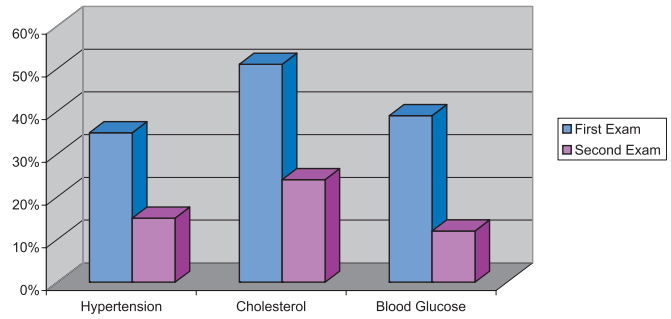
- Also on the second exam, of those had been normal on the first exam, 21% tested high for hypertension, 17% for cholesterol, and 24% for blood glucose.

About 35% of eligible participants have taken advantage of a re-screening exam.

A re-screening is an important way to monitor your health status! We encourage all eligible participants to take advantage of the re-screening services. Call the program at 1-800-866-9663 if you think you may be eligible for a re-screening. ***It's for your health!***

A note of caution: Medical screening programs are offered to participants who chose to take advantage of the service. Therefore there is a potential for selection bias. Findings from screening programs are indicative but not conclusive and need to be confirmed through additional diagnostic evaluations. We have not confirmed whether changes between the first and second exam have been the result of medical or other interventions, or the type of medical interventions applied.

Fig. 1 - Decrease Among High-Level Participants



How can I tell if I have High Cholesterol?

In order to find out if your cholesterol levels put you at risk of having a heart attack, you must have your cholesterol measured once every three years. This is usually done through a simple blood test called a "lipoprotein profile" that provides the following measurements:

What The Numbers Mean

Total Cholesterol Level (mg/dL)	
< 200	Desirable
200-239	Borderline High
> 240	High
LDL Cholesterol Level (bad cholesterol)	
< 100	Optimal
100-129	Near Optimal/Above Optimal
130-159	Borderline High
160-189	High
> 190	Very High
HDL Cholesterol Level (good cholesterol)	
< 40	Increases risk for heart disease
> 60	Reduces risk for heart disease

*The optimal level of LDL cholesterol depends on your overall health status, such as whether you have heart disease or diabetes, or if you have significant risk factors such as smoking or a family history of heart disease. You should talk to your doctor about what your cholesterol tests mean.

Attention Savannah River Site Workers!

EEOICPA News….

Petition filed for Former Workers

In November 2007, Savannah River Site workers and survivors submitted a petition to the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH), appealing for easier access to compensation and medical benefits.

The petition, known as an SEC (Special Exposure Cohort) petition, asks that Savannah River workers who have one of 22 eligible cancers and can verify employment at SRS would be eligible for compensation and medical benefits.

The petition is currently under review at NIOSH.

If you're interested in learning more about this SEC petition, please contact **Gordon Rowe** at **706-722-7272**.

Building Trades Outreach Office Locations and Staff

Brookhaven Contact: Angela DeVito 631-727-6406	**Fernald** Contact: Lou Doll 513-681-0864	**Hanford** Contact: Sherry Gosseen 509-542-9347	**Idaho National Laboratory (INL)** Contact: Dan Obray 208-233-4611	**Kansas City Plant** Contact: Walter Smith 816-333-3020
Oak Ridge Contact: Kim Cranford/Johnny Ballinger 1-888-464-0009	**Paducah** Contact: Joe Hudson 1-888-464-0009	**Portsmouth** Contact: Ron Bush 1-888-464-0009	**Rocky Flats** Contact: Dwayne Adkins 303-744-6169 ext.11	**Savannah River Site** Contact: Charles Jernigan/Gordon Rowe 706-722-7272

For Amchitka, Argonne West, Battelle Labs (King Avenue & West Jefferson), Brush Luckey, GE Evendale, Huntington Pilot Plant, Mallinckrodt, Mound, Pinellas, Piqua, Weldon Springs, and Yucca Mountain
Call Toll Free 1-800-866-9663

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Were you a construction worker at a DOE site? If so, please read this.

Check us out online!
www.btmed.org

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