BTMED news

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

Volume 5, Issue 1 Spring 2010 www.btmed.org

Free Medical Screenings Continued

More than 600,000 building trades workers who served our nation's nuclear weapons programs working construction jobs are at risk of developing cancer and other life-threatening ailments from exposure to hazards such as radiation, asbestos, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, lead, silica, and solvents.

These construction workers are eligible to receive a free medical screening provided through BTMed. The screening program helps identify workers' job-related health problems that may have gone untreated or undiagnosed in the years since the hazardous exposures occurred.

The Department of Energy (DOE) began funding the program in 1996 and recently extended funding until January 2015. More than 31,500 workers have signed up for the program.

2009 Highlights

- 2,993 workers were screened.
- Participant satisfaction continued a steady annual growth, rising from 92% in 2006 to 99% in 2009. This is the result of a performance-based management program that has focused on quality improvement.
- Many DOE sites are looking at BTMed findings with the aim of finding ways to better protect the safety and health of the current workforce.

Key Medical Findings of the Screening Program

- X-ray evidence of lung disease in 25% of screened workers.
- Audiometry test evidence of hearing loss in 70%.
- Blood test results showing beryllium disease in 2%.

"I'm grateful there's a program doing something for our people. It doesn't take much to be exposed and knowledge is the best answer to that. If you know, you might be able to do something about it."

Jim Harrison, Asbestos Workers Local 46, Oak Ridge

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

Had an Exam and Missing Your Medical Results Letter?

No problem...you can get it immediately.

Are you visiting your personal doctor and want to take your BTMed results letter? Have you misplaced the copy we sent you?

After participating in the BTMed, you received a medical results letter explaining the findings of your physical exam. This letter is available on-line for you to access at any time. All you have to do is visit us at www.btmed.org and log in using your Username and Password (see below if you do not have one). Your results letter is a very important part of your exam and can greatly aid your personal doctor.

Your medical results letter along with all other personal information is kept strictly confidential on a secure system, which is why you need a username and password to access it. The security features of btmed.org make it an absolutely safe way for you to access your information.

Along with your medical results letter, you can also find your Initial Contact Form and Work History Interview that you can use as a comprehensive reference of your entire work history.

Do you need a Username and Password?

Call us at 1-800-866-9663 and we will supply one. We can also walk you through the Login process!

New DOE and DOL Reports Released

Find screening results, claims process review

DOE Annual Report

In February, the Department of Energy released its *2009 Annual Report on the Former Worker Programs*. The DOE Office of Former Worker Screening provides funding to nine (9) independent organizations to manage former worker medical screening programs. The BTMed Program is one of these programs. Check out the results from across the DOE complex.

EEOICPA Report

The U.S. Government Accountability Office offered recommendations in its report that focuses on how the Department of Labor can improve the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICPA). Whether or not you have a pending EEOICPA claim, you may be interested in reading these recommendations, which include more external review, public response to reports submitted by the Ombudsman, and increased public access to site exposure data used to adjudicate Part E claims.

Both of these reports can both be found on-line:

Visit www.btmed.org

And click on ***"Resources & Links"***

Oak Ridge Appears on WATE Channel 6 News!

BTMed's Oak Ridge Outreach Office and former Oak Ridge workers were interviewed by WATE Channel 6 News about their experience with the EEOICP program that compensates Oak Ridge workers for illnesses they've suffered as a result of the work they performed.

Watch the video on www.btmed.org!

Click on "Resources & Links" to hear former Oak Ridge Workers describe their problems in the four minute news segment.

Meet the Idaho National Lab (INL) Outreach Office

A third generation painter, Dan Obray worked all the Idaho National Lab projects as a member of the IUPAT Local 764 and has been the Interviewer at the INL Outreach Office since it opened in 2005.

What is your work experience at INL?

"I've been a painter all my life and first stepped on INL back in 1980. Since then until just a few years ago, I worked on and off as a part of all the big projects that were out there, projects that exposed me to radiation and asbestos among other things."

How has your past work experience helped in conducting interviews?

"Just having been out there on the large construction projects, I got to know a lot of other workers and the work they did. So I can talk to anyone whose been out there and make them feel comfortable when they're talking about it."

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

"Having been a radiation worker, I've been through lots of physicals and this physical screens for things none of the other ones I went through screened for. There's no doubt it's the most comprehensive physical you'll receive."

What is your role in the medical screening process?

"I devote a lot of time to outreach, finding workers who either haven't heard of our screening program or haven't signed up. My other time is spent conducting work history interviews, which are geared to find out what a worker may have been exposed to."

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

"Definitely helping the workers. Lots of workers are sick and don't know why. Those that aren't sick are thankful to have had a sound physical, and those that are can see if their illness is work related and if it's compensable."

For information about the BTMed at INL
Call Dan at 208-233-4611

Public Meetings
All Welcome

Together the BTMed and the Department of Energy, along with others, are hosting public meetings at the following sites to discuss the former worker programs and the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICPA). Plan to join us!

Rocky Flats
May 12, 2010
Contact: Dwayne Adkins 303-744-6169 x11 or
Maria Palacios 303-744-6169 x12

Los Alamos
June 9 & 10, 2010
Contact: Maureen Cadorette 1-877-500-8615

Idaho National Lab
August 10, 2010
Contact: Dan Obray 208-233-4611

Kansas City Plant
Fall 2010*
Contact: Dan Obray 208-233-4611

Watch your mail for information on the meeting in your area

*Date to be determined

"I received an exam because I thought I'd been exposed to hazards on the work site at Portsmouth. But it sometimes takes a while for health problems to show up so I'm going to follow the BTMed program until the time I can get checked again."

Travis Prater
Pipe Fitters Local 577
Portsmouth

Has it been 3 years since your initial screening? If so, call us at 1-800-866-9663

Building Trades Outreach Office Locations and Staff

Brookhaven	Fernald	Hanford	INL	Kansas City Plant
Angela DeVito	Lou Doll	Sherry Gosseen	Dan Obray	Walter Smith
631-727-6406	513-681-0864	509-783-6830	208-233-4611	816-500-1234

Oak Ridge	Paducah	Portsmouth	Rocky Flats	Savannah River Site
Kim Cranford/Johnny Ballinger	Joe Hudson	Ron Bush	Dwayne Adkins	Gordon Rowe/Charles Jernigan
1-888-464-0009	1-888-464-0009	1-888-464-0009	303-744-6169 ext.11	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

Retirees luncheon? Picnic? Union meeting?

Let us know what's happening in your community and we'll come introduce the BTMed Program.

Call 1-800-866-9663

This Program Saved My Life!

IBEW Local 575 member survives death's doorstep and lives to send a message.

Guy Sands never left a job unfinished. Working seven days a week at Portsmouth GDP, the electrician was the type of person you could rely on to be there. On the day he disappeared from work, his co-workers knew something was wrong.

"When the doctor called me at work," Guy recalls, "he told me to get to the hospital immediately. He said, 'Don't walk...*Run*.'"

The BTMed doctor had received blood results from the free medical exam he had received through the Building Trades National Medical Screening Program. The numbers were so astronomical, they were thought to be inaccurate. Sands arrived at the hospital in diabetic shock, within days of death. So for Guy Sands, walking out of that hospital convinced him he'd been blessed by God.

"This Program saved my life. If it hadn't been in place, I wouldn't be here today. My advice to any worker is: Don't Wait."

It also convinced him that his experience was meant to open the eyes of fellow workers. "On my union floor, we talk about this program and how everyone needs to participate."

"This exam leaves no stone unturned. It will show you any health issues you have - even ones that aren't work related."

Grateful for his second chance, Guy doesn't take this blessing for granted. He continues to encourage co-workers to get checked, telling them 'you don't have to be in the shape I was in to get screened.'

At age 52, he was far too young to die - but old enough to realize his health needed to start coming first.

Building Trades National
Medical Screening Program
c/o CPWR - The Center for Construction
Research and Training

Mark H. Ayers, President
Sean McGarvey, Secretary-Treasurer

8484 Georgia Ave., Suite 1000
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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

© 2010, 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.

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

Check us out online!

www.btmed.org