



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

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 

### LEAD

#### What is lead?

Lead is a heavy metal. It is valued for its high density and resistance to corrosion. Lead is often added to industrial paints. It is used as radiation shielding because of its ability to stop gamma rays and x-rays.

Lead is very toxic. Workers can become ill from breathing in lead dust or fume. Fume is made of tiny solid particles that get into the air when lead is heated. Swallowing lead is also harmful.

Construction workers may breathe in lead when they weld or sandblast on surfaces with lead paint, or when they demolish lead-containing structures. Workers can breathe in lead dust when installing radiation shielding. They can swallow lead from the air or from contaminated hands or food.

#### What is the purpose of this exam?

Your screening interview showed that you may have been exposed to lead at work. Checking your health will help us decide whether you need treatment or more tests.

#### What are we looking for?

We are looking carefully for signs of nervous system damage, such as memory loss, mood changes, and loss of muscle control. In rare cases lead can cause *peripheral neuropathy*. This is a kind of severe nerve damage that causes loss of sensation and/or control over hands and feet.

Lead can cause a low red blood cell count (anemia), and may damage your kidneys. We will check your kidney function and numbers of blood cells. If you have any medical problems that may have been caused by lead we will directly test the lead level in your blood.

When lead gets into your body, it circulates in the blood and then is stored in bones and other organs. The stored lead can remain in your body for years and continue to damage your health. You may need special tests to see how much lead is stored in your bones. Blood tests can show how much lead is currently in your blood, but they don't show how much lead has been stored in your body.

You will receive a letter summarizing your exam and photocopies of your test results. All your results are confidential, as defined in your Consent Statement.

#### What if my test results are positive?

If the results show that you have possible health problems, you will be referred to your doctor or specialist. You will be advised of the type of tests or treatment you need.