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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 18, 2009

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS, LANDLORDS & MAINTENANCE WORKERS
Join us for a free Lead Safe Work Practices Training Course

Thinking about doing some renovation work around your home? Need to upgrade an apartment unit for a new tenant? Did you know that renovation in older buildings may present health risks to children? Make sure that beautifying your space doesn't result in the lead poisoning of a child by attending a free one-day course hosted by the Westchester County Health Department on Lead Safe Work Practices. Two training courses are currently scheduled for:

Thursday, September 24, 2009 - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday, September 25, 2009 - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Courses will be offered at the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services, Richard A. Flynn Training Center, located on the Grasslands Campus, 4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY 10595. Advance registration is required by calling Peter DeLucia at 914-231-2535 or Owen Borda at 914-231-2533. Directions to the site are available online at: <http://emergencyservices.westchestergov.com>.

This training program will teach participants how to minimize lead dust from lead-based paint by complying with standards set forth by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). When correctly implemented, the techniques taught at this training program will reduce the risk of lead exposure to children, maintenance workers, residents, and families of maintenance personnel.

MORE

Lead Seminars P.2

Lead poisoning affects thousands of children each year. It is usually caused by chewing or eating paint or paint chips that contain lead or by ingesting dust formed when lead paint is disturbed or paint chips are stepped on or crushed. Children are exposed when they inhale the dust or place toys or fingers in their mouth.

At low blood lead levels, lead can adversely affect a child's ability to learn. At high levels, lead is an acute poison that can require hospitalization for treatment. Lead poisoning can cause mental retardation, seizures and in severe cases, death.

Parents and caregivers should be aware that lead poisoning is preventable and that there are several ways to minimize a child's exposure to lead. Lead poisoning can be easily detected by a simple blood test. All children between the ages of six months and six years old should be assessed annually by their pediatrician and all children at ages one and two years should be tested for lead exposure.

For more information about lead poisoning prevention, contact the Health Department at (914) 813-5000 or visit www.westchestergov.com/health.