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EPA Response to BP Spill in the Gulf of Mexico: What You Can Do

US EPA set to implement New Lead-Safe Rule

### EPA Response to BP Spill in the Gulf of Mexico:

#### What You Can Do

To volunteer, call the Deepwater Horizon Response Volunteer Request Line at 1-866-448-5816.

[More information and volunteer hotlines](#)

#### Report an oil sighting:

**Report oiled shoreline:** 1-866- 448-5816

**Report oiled wildlife:** 1-866-557-1401 (Leave a message. Messages will be checked hourly)

**If you feel ill due to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico or have oil spill health related questions, call the Deepwater Horizon Medical Support Line: 1- 888-623-0287**

Submit your vessel for the Vessel of Opportunity Program: (281) 366-5511

Submit a claim for damages: 1-800-440-0858

Submit a [question or a comment about the spill](#)

Submit a [technology solution](#).

Vendors - submit information to EPA's list of [contract services your company can offer](#).

## OSHA requests comments on Direct Final Rule and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to protect workers from exposure to hexavalent chromium

**WASHINGTON** -- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is publishing for public comment a direct final rule requiring employers to notify workers of exposures to hexavalent chromium. OSHA is responding to the Third Circuit Court's decision that the agency failed to explain why it departed from the proposed rule that would require notifying workers of all hexavalent chromium exposures. Workers exposed to this toxic chemical are at greater risk for lung cancer and damage to the nose, throat and respiratory tract.

OSHA currently requires employers to alert workers only when they experience hexavalent chromium exposures exceeding the permissible exposure level. After reviewing the issue, OSHA decided to make hexavalent chromium consistent with other OSHA standards on hazardous substances such as lead and arsenic that require worker notification of all exposures, whether above or below the limit.

"Hexavalent chromium is a dangerous chemical and exposure can lead to serious adverse health effects," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA David Michaels. "With this new notification requirement, employers are now required to provide more information to workers that help them identify and reduce their own exposure to toxic chemicals."

OSHA will accept public comments on the Direct Final Rule and companion Notice of Proposed Rulemaking until April 16, 2010. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking will go into effect if the agency receives significant adverse comments within 30 days of publication. This will allow the agency to continue the rulemaking as a "Notice and Comment" rulemaking. The Direct Final Rule will take effect June 15, 2010, if no significant adverse comments are received.

**-From Federal OSHA Trade News Release, March 18, 2010**



## US EPA set to implement New Lead-Safe Rule

125,000 trained in lead-safe practices nationally.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced it expects more than 125,000 renovation and remodeling contractors to be trained in lead-safe work practices by April 22, the effective date for a rule requiring such training. The agency is on target to implement the Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule, which will protect millions of children from lead poisoning, on April 22, 2010

Anyone receiving compensation for renovating, repairing and painting work in residences built before 1978 that disturbs painted surfaces is subject to the new Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP). Also affected by the RRP are those performing similar work on facilities occupied by children under six years of age, such as schools and day-care centers built prior to 1978.

"These lead-safe renovation practices, which protect children, adults and workers from lead-based paint dust and chips, will reduce incidences of lead poisoning," said Katherine Taylor, Associate Director of EPA Region 9's Communities and Ecosystems Division. "We have been working diligently to make sure the public and regulated community are aware of the rule and its impact."

Despite nearly 30 years of effort to reduce childhood lead exposures, a million American children are still poisoned by lead paint each year, putting them at risk for a wide range of health impacts, including lowered IQ and behavioral disorders. Some of that poisoning is a result of dust contaminated by old lead paint that is stirred up during remodeling activities.

There are simple steps contractors can take during such renovations to minimize exposures to lead paint. To ensure contractors were following such procedures, the EPA finalized the Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (LRRP) rule in 2008. The rule requires Contractors to become trained and certified as lead-safe by EPA. Individuals take an eight-hour training course offered by private training providers to become a certified renovator. The certification is valid for five years.

In EPA Region 9, which includes the states of California, Arizona, Nevada, and Hawaii, more than 14,475 individuals and firms in the construction and remodeling industries have been trained for lead-safe work practices. Eighteen firms have been authorized to train and certify workers at 27 locations.

EPA has a number of efforts under way to expedite the training and certification process. Included are a print and radio campaign to highlight the benefits of hiring lead-safe certified firms. As a result, it is expected that training capacity will continue to increase significantly as the April 22 deadline approaches. It is likely that many more contractors and renovators will seek and obtain training after the deadline.

To locate EPA-accredited RRP training providers in Region 9, use the following website: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/lead>

Information on firm certification: <http://www.epa.gov/getleadsafe>

More information on EPA's lead program: <http://www.epa.gov/lead>

**-From EPA News Releases from Region 9, April 9, 2010**



**EPA Response to BP Spill  
in the Gulf of Mexico:**

**Government Response**

For questions about the response, call the Joint Information Center: 1-713-323-1670 or 1-713-323-1671

For oil spill health related questions, call the Medical Support Line: 1-888-623-0287

[Sign Up for Deepwater Horizon Response Text Message Alerts](#)

[Response information from the unified command | White House response site](#)

[National Park Service updates about potential park closures, resources at risk, and NPS actions to protect vital park space and wildlife](#)

[Fish and Wildlife Service updates about response along the Gulf Coast and the status of national wildlife refuges](#)

[NOAA's daily updates on fishing closures](#)

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**Job Site Photos**



**Fungal growth (Poria) on building material surfaces**



**Post abatement decontamination of corridors**



**Thermal imaging of building materials for moisture levels**

Following the BP Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico on April 22, 2010, EPA has provided full support to the U.S. Coast Guard and is monitoring and responding to potential public health and environmental concerns. EPA continues to closely coordinate with other federal, state and local agencies as well.

Environmental data, including air quality and water samples, will be posted and frequently updated on this site as it is collected and validated by EPA's response teams along the impacted coastlines. This data is meant to determine potential risks to public health and the environment.