

# Lead Prevention THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE Extension

## and Healthy Housing Newsletter

Family and Consumer Sciences

Volume 4 Number 4

2008

### Lead Recalls:

#### TOYS in Violation of Lead Paint Standards:

(Sold primarily at  
"dollar" stores)

**#09-037**  
Toy Xylophones

**#09-038**  
"Mini-Televisors"

Questions?  
Comments?  
Assistance Needed?

Please contact:

**Bonnie Hinds, MS**  
Extension Assistant  
Environmental  
Health Programs  
119 Morgan Hall  
Knoxville, TN  
37996-4501

**865-974-8178**

E-Mail:  
[bhinds@utk.edu](mailto:bhinds@utk.edu)

### EPA Establishes New Lead Standards



October 15, 2008  
of the  
Protection Agency's  
enact sterner air  
pertaining to lead  
previous standard,  
has undergone a dramatic improvement—from 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter to the revised 0.15 measurement signed on October 15. The new ruling will significantly reduce the hazard of environmental, airborne lead poisoning among children and adults alike.

marked the culmination  
Environmental  
two-year process to  
quality standards  
emissions. The  
unaltered since 1978,

Adherence to the new standard will be assured by increased lead emissions monitoring. Emissions monitoring equipment will be required in the 101 American cities with populations surpassing 500,000, as well as in highly industrialized areas whose lead emissions measure one ton (tpy) or more annually. At least half of the new monitoring sites will be operational by January of 2010, with the remaining 50 percent to follow in January 2011.

The new standard and accompanying information are available on the EPA's website at [epa.gov/lead/actions.html](http://epa.gov/lead/actions.html).

### Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (CLPPP) Advisory Committee Reactivated

Following a period of inactivity, Tennessee's CLPPP Advisory Committee has been reinvigorated, holding its first meeting of the fiscal year in Nashville on October 23, 2008.

The group, comprised of all CLPPP partners and other child-serving and environmentally-focused agencies from across the state, will meet quarterly to monitor, reflect, and evaluate the clinical and educational outcomes of lead poisoning prevention. To maximize participation from all members, the committee will schedule a hybrid of live and video meetings, with host sites in the three geographical sections of the state.

Minutes of the October 2008 meeting are available online at <http://fcs.tennessee.edu/lead>. For further information, please contact Bonnie Hinds at [bhinds@utk.edu](mailto:bhinds@utk.edu).

## 'Tis the Season to . . . Focus on Fire and Heating SAFETY



### Sites for Further Holiday Fire Safety Information:

**American Red Cross**  
[www.redcross.org/  
homefires](http://www.redcross.org/homefires)

**FEMA/U.S.  
Fire Administration**  
[http://www.  
usfa.dhs.gov/](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/)

**National Fire  
Protection Assn**  
[http://www.nfpa.  
org/index.asp](http://www.nfpa.org/index.asp)

In the words of Clement Moore's beloved classic: "The stockings were hung by the chimney with care . . ." Families cherish the holidays as a time to embrace tradition and togetherness, to reconnect spiritually and socially. Adorned Christmas trees, festive lights, scented candles, and crackling fires all bespeak seasonal cheer. At the same time, they represent potential fire hazards.

November and December not only usher in the holidays, but the colder temperatures, as well. Furnaces, space heaters, and fireplaces are pressed back into service—sometimes with devastating consequences. Almost 47,000 American homes experience fires during the holiday season, a statistic that accounts for more than 500 fatalities, 2,200 injuries, and 990 million dollars in damages. Other seasonal heating hazards include carbon monoxide poisoning caused by poorly functioning heating units.

Observing a few basic safety rules will ensure a home free of fire hazards:

- Replace the batteries in all smoke alarms. Check for proper functioning.
- Purchase a carbon monoxide alarm.
- Service the furnace, fireplace, and other heating units at the beginning of the winter season.
- Use heating units *only* for the purposes for which they were intended. Cooking stoves and barbeque grills should never be used for home heating.
- Place Christmas trees at a significant distance (three feet or more) from any heat sources, keeping them well hydrated.
- Do not overload electrical circuits. No more than three strands of Christmas lights should be linked together.
- Unplug the Christmas tree and all holiday lights any time they cannot be properly attended.

### CLPPP Web site:

[http://fcs.tennessee.  
edu/lead](http://fcs.tennessee.edu/lead)

- If using candles, place them in stable holders. Teach children and pets to keep their distance. Extinguish fully when vacating the room.
- Do not burn wrapping paper or cardboard in the fireplace.
- Monitor closely all holiday cooking and baking.

American utilities across the nation have announced plans to raise fuel and electricity rates between 18 and 30 percent this winter. With household incomes already overtaxed by a flagging economic situation, thinking “green” in terms of heating makes good sense.

Keeping thermostats turned down saves fuel but need not mean being cold. Wearing multiple layers of clothing, enjoying cozy blankets and afghans, shutting off unused rooms—all contribute to financial savings and good stewardship.

*Wishing one and all a holiday season warmed by the love of family and friends . . . .*



### **Newsletter Format Updated**

Regular readers will note the change in both title and content of this publication. Known now as the “Lead Prevention and Healthy Housing Newsletter,” it will feature information on a wider variety of environmental topics. This change reflects the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) emphasis on lead as a vital component in any healthy housing initiative.