

Has your child played with mercury? January 23, 2004

Mercury Contamination on Saylor Street

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working with the Clark County Health District to remove mercury contamination from a home on Saylor Street in Las Vegas.
- The home was contaminated when a teenage boy found a jar of mercury, poured it out, and played with it in and around his home for several months.
- The boy was hospitalized and received treatment for mercury poisoning. He has since been released from the hospital.

Did your child play with Mercury?

- It has been determined by health officials that many children not previously reported have visited the home to play or spend the night. These children range from elementary school age through high school age.
- Some of these children may have taken the mercury home with them in vials or plastic sandwich bags.

Is there danger?

- The other children who visited the home or the family members of children who took the mercury home with them are at risk for ill health effects and contamination of their homes.
- It is very important that anyone who knows of a child that has visited the home since September 15, 2003 or knows of a child that has a silver-metallic substance in his or her possession contact the Clark County Health District at the phone numbers below.

What is mercury?

Mercury is a liquid metal. It is often found inside thermometers. It is silver and forms metal droplets when released from its container. Mercury is found naturally in the environment in low concentrations however, high amounts of mercury can be harmful to your health.

How does mercury get into my body and what does it do?

Mercury releases vapors that can be inhaled. If you are around a mercury release, you can breathe in the vapors and they can affect your brain and nervous system. Some common symptoms include tremors, mood and personality changes and kidney damage. If you have high levels of mercury in your body, a medicine prescribed by a doctor can help your body get rid of it.

For more information about mercury and the progress at Saylor Street, please contact:

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(702) 383-1263 during normal business hours or
(702) 385-1291 after hours