



*"To improve the health of our communities by identifying sustainable solutions to community health issues,
developing partnerships for implementation of strategies, and demonstrating our success through measurement of outcomes."*

HAN

Please circulate to all appropriate clinical and diagnostic staff.

Mercury Release in Boise Neighborhood Prompts Physician Alert July 25, 2008

On Thursday, July 24, Boise Fire Department responded to a call reporting the presence of mercury in an area near the 700 block of S. White Cloud Drive on the Boise Bench. The EPA, Idaho DEQ, Boise Fire Department, the Bureau of Homeland Security and Central District Health Department (CDHD) are all part of the hazardous material response.

Potentially several children who played with the spilled mercury and their families have been exposed to toxic amounts of mercury over the past week.

CDHD's Environmental Health Office has strongly encouraged any individuals in that area who may have been exposed to mercury seek medical evaluation from their physician or other health care provider.

Mercury can cause health problems when it comes into contact with the skin or when it is inhaled as a vapor and absorbed through the lungs. Symptoms of mercury poisoning can include: bronchitis, fever, chills, shortness of breath, diarrhea, cramps, kidney dysfunction, visual disturbances and tremors.

Physicians with questions about diagnosing or treating mercury poisoning can get expert advice by calling:

**The Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center (24/7)
Medical Toxicologist
1-800-222-1222**

Additional questions regarding the exposure area or exposure time period may be directed to Central District Health Department's Environmental Health Office at 327-7499.

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HAN Mercury July 25, 2008

