Lead based paint is commonly found in homes built before 1978 and many industrial paints today still contain lead. Lead overexposure is one of the leading causes of workplace illnesses in the United States. The Cornell University Lead Management Program provides information and requires the use of safe work practices for all employees engaged in work that may expose them to lead hazards. The Lead Management Program helps ensure compliance with the OSHA Lead in Construction standard, 29 CFR 1926.62 and the EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) rule 40 CFR 745.

Lead exposure can occur through the inhalation or ingestion of lead containing dust that is generated during construction, repair or renovation activities. The primary lead hazard on campus involves the disturbance of lead-based paint. Paint must be tested in order to determine if it contains lead and paint that has not been tested must be assumed to contain lead. Additional materials on campus that may contain lead include lead solder, glazings, stained glass, sink liners, sink traps, fume hood counterweights, roofing materials, gutters and downspouts.

**Health Effects**
Lead adversely affects numerous body systems and causes forms of health impairment and disease that arise after periods of exposure as short as days (acute exposure) or as long as several years (chronic exposure). The frequency and severity of medical symptoms increases with the concentration of lead in the blood. Common symptoms of acute lead poisoning are loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps, constipation, difficulty in sleeping, fatigue, moodiness, headache, joint or muscle aches, and anemia. Acute health poisoning from uncontrolled occupational exposures has resulted in fatalities. Long term (chronic) overexposure to lead may result in severe damage to the nervous, urinary, and reproductive systems.

**Protective Measures**
The following protective measures shall be implemented when disturbing lead containing materials:
- **A Site Specific Lead Compliance Plan** shall be completed prior to beginning work.
- Lead safe work practices aimed at minimizing lead dust and fumes shall be utilized (wet work methods and avoid use of power tools).
- The proper PPE shall be worn including disposable coveralls, gloves, eye protection and the respiratory protection.
- The work area shall be isolated using negative pressure ventilation machines, polyethylene sheeting and signs posted warning of potential lead exposure.
- Surfaces must be protected from contamination with polyethylene sheeting and the waste generated must be collected. The waste will be tested by EH&S to determine if it needs to be disposed of as hazardous waste.
- Clean up shall be performed with a HEPA vacuum or wet mop (do not use a shop vac or compressed air).
- PPE must be removed before leaving the work area.
- Workers must wash their hands and face before eating and drinking and at the end of the shift.

**Training & Medical Monitoring**
All employees who are involved with the demolition, renovation, or repair of surfaces or materials containing lead must attend lead awareness training. The training must be repeated annually and cover topics including the contents of standard 1926.62, engineering controls, lead safe work practices, respiratory protection, adverse health affects and medical monitoring. Additional training requirements apply to work covered by the EPA RRP rule.

Medical monitoring is available to all employees occupationally exposed on any day to lead at or above the action level of 30 ug/m³, 8 hour TWA. Testing will include blood sampling and analysis for lead and zinc protoporphyrins. A continuing medical surveillance program is available to all employees exposed at the action level for more than 30 days in a 12 month period.
**Toolbox Safety Talk**

**Lead Awareness**

Date:_________________  Start Time: ________________  End Time: ________________

Location:__________________________________________________

Presenter Name:_______________________________________________________________________

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**Environmental Health & Safety**

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*Please return sign-in sheet to Environmental Health & Safety for recordkeeping.*