

Workers are exposed to lead during the production, use, maintenance, recycling, and disposal of lead material and products. Lead exposure occurs in most industry sectors including manufacturing, wholesale trade, transportation, remediation and even recreation. **Why is lead so dangerous?** According to OSHA, **lead harms the brain, nervous system, blood, and kidneys.** Some harmful effects of lead are permanent.

OSHA Standard 1910.1025(l)(1)(ii) *The employer shall train each employee who is subject to exposure to lead at or above the action level, or for whom the possibility of skin or eye irritation exists, in accordance with the requirements of this section. The employer shall institute a training program and ensure employee participation in the program.*

Only workers who are specially trained and equipped can work with lead.

- Ensure the workplace is frequently vacuumed to reduce lead exposure.
- Recognize and follow posted warning signs in affected areas where the PEL (permissible exposure limit) is exceeded.
- Never enter a contaminated area without the proper training and equipment.
- Never leave a contaminated area without following the correct safety procedures including clothing removal, washing, and tool clean-up.
- Good housekeeping and hygiene practices prevent surface contamination and protect workers from ingesting and taking home lead that would lead to further exposure.
- Clean and dry protective work clothing must be provided daily or weekly depending on exposure levels. Cleaning, laundering, or disposal of protective clothing and equipment must also be provided.
- Contaminated protective clothing, which is to be cleaned, laundered, or disposed of must be placed in a closed, labeled container in the changing area.
- After removing protective clothing, employees should shower and also vacuum their personal clothes.