

paint issue

ased paint molecular level, it would take long-term exposure to the dust, or a lot of ingesting paint chips for a problem to arise according to Fernandez.

That is labeled as mild toxicity. Lead poisoning is cumulative; to get what is considered symptomatic intoxication, blood levels generally need to be around 45 micrograms/deciliter for children and about 50 micrograms/deciliter for adults.

The only people who routinely get that amount of exposure are the contractors who prepare the homes for painting. But according to Johnson they are not at risk.

"The only time the workers are at risk, is when they are preparing the house to be painted," he said. "Preparations include sanding, scraping off chipped paint and repairing gouges in the plaster or wood surfaces. When they're doing this type of work, they take the necessary safety precautions as set forth by OSHA (Occupational Health and Safety Administration)."

He went on to add that after the house is prepared for painting, the contractors no longer have to operate under "lead-conditions."

The base maintenance workers follow the same guidelines, according to LtCol. Gary Kenter, Base Maintenance Officer.

"Before we even begin work we test to see if there is any lead exposure expected from the building," Kenter said. "If the test shows up positive, we have to have a laboratory analysis done to see what concentration it is. Then we follow the OSHA guidelines just like the civilian contractors."

The process is very effective but time consuming. However, that is in the process of changing.

"The base is getting a new piece of equipment," Kenter said. "It can not only identify if lead is present in a building, it can also determine how much. You can test a whole building in a few hours as opposed to days the current way. Its a lot more efficient."

Some of the symptoms of lead intoxication or poisoning are lethargy and occasional abdominal discomfort at the early stages, and constipation, fatigue, headache and diffuse abdominal pain at moderate toxicity. If you feel that you may have lead poisoning, contact your health care professional for testing.

EMD seeks help with Base clean-up

Cpl. Joseph B. Gray III

Globe staff

In an effort to get the community more involved in base clean-up procedures, Camp Lejeune's Environmental Management Department has started the Camp Lejeune Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), and they're seeking members.

As a result of laws enacted in 1980, the Installation Restoration Program was established within the Environmental Management Department.

Established to investigate and clean-up hazardous waste sites on Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River, the Installation Restoration Program is currently addressing 41 identified sites. Investigation has been completed at 17 sites with 10 sites currently under investigation and other sites to be addressed as funding becomes available. Clean-up is currently underway at four sites with five sites completed.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) teamed with the Department of Defense and advised military installations to allow the public to have a bigger influence on clean-up activity decisions. In response to the new policy, the Installation Restoration Program at Camp Lejeune has provided for the creation of the Restoration Advisory Board. The board will use community volunteers to serve, review and comment on clean-up documents and to serve as liaisons between the RAB and the Camp Lejeune/Onslow County community.

According to Neil Paul, director of Installation Restoration Division, the members will serve a two-year term and attend all RAB meetings, and if they miss two or more meetings, the members may be asked to resign.

The Members must be able to attend

quarterly meetings and agree to have their names and addresses as well as home and work telephone numbers provided to the community.

Duties and responsibilities will include reviewing and commenting on documents and activities associated with the environmental restoration of Camp Lejeune. The membership of the RAB shall include a diverse group of individuals representing a broad cross-section of the community including established groups and interested individuals.

The RAB will insure the community is more involved with the clean-up of hazardous waste sites by having the members actually work hand-in-hand with the Environmental Management Department. The RAB will have the chance to examine and speak on primary documents, proposed actions and project requirements as well as recommend priorities among sites, Paul said.

They will also review budget information as requested and report back to organized groups to which they belong or represent.

They will serve as a pipeline for information to the community on the up-keep of hazardous waste sites.

According to Paul, all potential members should want the job, be willing to participate on a voluntary basis and live in the vicinity of the installation. Once the members are selected, their names and phone numbers will be made available to the community for access and communication.

The RAB will be responsible for all the hazardous waste sites aboard Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River. Anyone interested in serving on the RAB or needing more information on the role of a volunteer should call RAB coordinator Thomas Morris at 451-5068.