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For Immediate Release:

FREE Lead Abatement Trainings for Area Contractors

Local contractors have an opportunity to participate in free lead abatement training courses, part of a community-wide effort to eliminate lead hazards in homes and protect families from the harmful effects of lead poisoning. Children, especially those under the age of 6, that are exposed to lead by breathing or swallowing lead or lead dust can develop:

- Brain and nervous system damage
- Learning and behavioral problems
- Slowed growth and development
- Hearing and speech losses

Panhandle Public Health District (PPHD), with funding from Housing and Urban Development (HUD), are offering lead abatement trainings which provide essential skills and certifications for contractors, renovators, and other tradespeople involved in housing rehabilitation, remodeling, and maintenance. Participants will learn how to safely handle lead-based paint, comply with federal and local regulations, and contribute to healthier living environments – especially for children and vulnerable populations.

“Contractors are on the front lines of protecting our communities,” said Melissa Haas, HUD Program Manager at PPHD. “Lead exposure remains a serious issue in older housing. By equipping contractors with the right tools and training, we’re not only improving their job readiness but also ensuring that homes are safe for the families who live in them.”

Training Details:

- **What:** Lead Abatement Worker Training and Lead Abatement Supervisor Training.
- **When:** September 8-12, 2025. Lead workers will attend for three days, lead supervisors will attend for five days.
- **Where:** Scottsbluff
- **Who Should Attend:** General contractors, painters, remodelers, property maintenance crews, and others working in pre-1978 housing or child-occupied facilities.
- **How to Register:** Call Melissa at 308-760-5757 or register online at www.pphd.ne.gov.
- In addition to the cost of the class being covered, a daily stipend will be provided.

In rural areas a large numbers of homes were built before 1978, when lead-based paint was banned for residential use. Improper renovation or repair can disturb lead paint and create toxic dust that poses long-term health risks, particularly to children.

“Completing this training is more than checking a box – it’s a commitment to protecting your neighbors,” Haas added. “Safe housing starts with trained workers.”

To request further information or to register, please visit www.pphd.ne.gov or call 308-487-3600 x108. Panhandle Public Health District is working together to improve the health, safety and quality of life for all who live, learn, work and play in the Panhandle. Our vision is that we are a healthier and safer Panhandle Community.