

IMPROVING KIDS' ENVIRONMENT



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www.ikecoalition.org

DECEMBER 2010

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

School Pesticide Rule Now In Effect

On Nov. 20, the Pesticide Use at Schools Rule became effective with Governor Daniels' signature. The rule was passed by the Indiana Pesticide Review Board in September. The rule seeks to minimize the potential that students would be exposed to pesticides at schools by ensuring the following:

1. Pesticides are used only by certified applicators or individuals they supervise.
2. Pesticides are not used when students are in the pesticide application area.
3. Pesticides are stored in locked and/or marked storage areas.
4. Advance notice of pesticide applications is provided to interested parents and staff.
5. School corporations keep records of pesticide applications.
6. Pesticides with the lowest hazard to children are used whenever practical.

A pesticide is any substance that controls or kills a pest. Pesticides governed by this rule include not only insecticides, but also herbicides (weed killers), fungicides, and rodenticides. Under the new rules, teachers, coaches and other school staff cannot apply bug spray, weed killers or other pesticides unless they are certified, or supervised by someone who is certified.

The Indiana State Chemist office is working to educate schools about the new rules and provide guidance on complying with the rules. Ask your neighborhood school what they are doing to learn about and comply with the new rules. To learn more, visit the State Chemist website at: www.isco.purdue.edu

Indiana IPM Schools Coalition Helps Schools Reduce Pesticide Use

IKE is working with a new Indiana IPM Schools Coalition to encourage schools to adopt integrated pest management (IPM) as their preferred approach to dealing with pests. The coalition provides education to school board members, superintendents, parents and others, and provides technical resources and workshops to help facility managers implement integrated pest management.

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IPM involves pest prevention and proactive pest management. By keeping pests out and removing sources of food, water and shelter, fewer pests are encountered and pesticides are used only as a last resort. IPM results in fewer complaints, saves money, empowers school staff, and creates a cleaner, healthier school environment for children and staff.

With IKE's assistance and funding from the Indiana State Department of Health, Pike Township schools in 2008-09 adopted an IPM approach to pest prevention and proactive pest management, saving money on pest control services and creating a cleaner, healthier learning environment.

Indiana IPM School Coalition meets regularly to provide useful resources to Indiana school districts. The coalition provides hands-on workshops and technical advice from peers. On October 20th, the coalition hosted a Bed Bug



Workshop to provide information to schools on how to develop a bed bug action plan and learn about implementing a pest prevention approach in their schools.

Additional workshops are planned on bed bug monitoring, landscaping, new school pesticide rules and other topics of interest to the group. Schools should contact Ashley Sims at asims@ikecoalition.org or 317-253-1312 to join the coalition or receive more information.

News from the Healthy Homes & Childcare Conference

Thanks to all who attended our 2010 Healthy Homes and Childcare Conference on Nov. 3-4 at the Marten House in Indianapolis. More than 200 attendees took away useful resources and lessons on protecting children and their families from environmental threats in the home and childcare setting.

Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel provided the keynote speech on Nov. 3, telling about his city's efforts to combat lead poisoning through a voluntary rental registry, a certified renovator training program and shifting property maintenance enforcement to the building commission.

The city is also working on a combined Evansville-Vanderburgh County ordinance that, if adopted, may be the most comprehensive and protective in Indiana. In its current draft, the ordinance will make it a violation for any person to knowingly sell, rent or lease a building with an identified but un-remediated lead hazard if the building will be occupied by a child less than 6 years of age. The ordinance will also incorporate state requirements for licensing, notification and lead-safe work practices.

Evansville's approach will help ensure that local authorities are enforcing lead-safe requirements and leveling the playing field for contractors who are doing the right thing, but having to compete with unscrupulous contractors flying under the federal radar.

On Nov. 4, Elizabeth McDade of Rochester, NY, talked about her city's efforts to Make Lead History, including legislation, blood-lead level testing, proactive lead hazard housing inspections and public outreach and education.

Congratulations to the winners of our 2010 Healthy Homes and Childcare awards:

- **Asthma Safe Award:** Raul Rivas and Asaf Goldstein, Metropolitan School District of Pike Township
- **Lead Safe Award:** Laura Gano, Indiana State Department of Health
- **Healthy Homes Award:** Carrie Russell Brunson, Elkhart County Health Department
- **Healthy Childcare Award:** Michele Schaefer, Sugar 'n Spice; Bloomington Developmental Learning Center and Monroe County United Ministries.

Presentations from the conference are available on-line at: <http://ike.roundtablelive.org/Conference>

Air Board to Hold Final Hearing on Restrictions on Outdoor Wood Boilers

On Feb. 2, the Indiana Air Pollution Control Board will hold a final public hearing in Lafayette on a preliminary rule to restrict outdoor wood boilers (outdoor hydronic heaters). More than 7,500 homes in Indiana use these wood-burning heaters to heat their homes. According to some studies, outdoor wood boilers, also known as "Outdoor Hydronic Heaters" (OHH), are some of the most polluting and inefficient devices available to homeowners.

The hearing will be held at 1:00 p.m., at the Tippecanoe County Public Library, 627 South Street, Lafayette, Indiana.

IKE has been encouraging the Air Board to strengthen the draft rule they preliminarily adopted in September. We believe the rule needs to be amended to:

1. Strengthen the stack height requirements;
2. Ban use of units not meeting EPA Phase 2 standards from May through September; and
3. Add a nuisance provision specific to outdoor wood boilers.

The proposed rule will require new devices to meet EPA emissions standards, allow them to burn only clean wood and require higher smokestack heights if a neighbor's home is located within 150 feet. See the latest rule information at <http://www.in.gov/idem/6556.htm>

IKE is concerned that the draft rule has been weakened from an earlier version. IKE will speak for the thousands of Indiana children with asthma in favor of common sense restrictions that govern how these devices operate.



WFYI & IKE Produce Documentary on Lead Poisoning in Indiana

Hoosier parents strive to keep their babies and young children safe and healthy in the face of hazards both seen and anticipated. But there is a hidden danger from the past that continues to take a toll on the youngest in our state: lead paint. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention says 13,000 Indiana children suffer from lead poisoning, primarily from ingesting lead paint in their own homes.

Lead Paint: Indiana's Poisoned Children is a 30-minute documentary that tells the stories of four Indiana families who dealt with the effects of lead poisoning in their children. The film also gives parents tips on protecting their families from the same heartaches. It aired on WFYI-TV20 on Nov. 18 and is being shown in a regular rotation on the public broadcasting station's schedule.

The documentary is available for screening at other Indiana public broadcast stations or government access channels. When ready, DVD copies also will be available for distribution to local health departments, child care centers and others. Contact Julie Zimmer at zimmer@ikecoalition.org to obtain a copy of the DVD or learn how to get it on the air in your community.

Thanks to our partners at the Indiana State Department of Health and Marion County Health Department for supporting this project.

Martindale Brightwood Issues 13-Point Environmental Justice Declaration

Martindale Brightwood residents on Sept. 23 signed an environmental justice declaration seeking local and state government actions to reduce the disproportionate burden of environmental risks faced by the community.

"Martindale Brightwood residents face higher rates of respiratory illness, lead poisoning, abandoned properties and illegal dumping than other areas of Marion County," said Elizabeth Gore, president of the Martindale Brightwood Environmental Justice Collaborative. "We are seeking both government action and community action to address these issues and make our neighborhood cleaner, safer and healthier."

The declaration seeks stronger local ordinances against illegal dumping and lead hazards in rental housing, and calls on government agencies to better enforce housing codes, illegal dumping and air pollution complaints.

This past summer, the community conducted a risk-ranking and prioritization process to identify the highest priorities for reducing environmental threats in the neighborhood. The top priorities were abandoned properties and code violations, illegal dumping, air pollution and lead poisoning.

IKE is working with the community to develop an action plan to reduce environmental threats in the Martindale Brightwood neighborhood. You can view the documents on IKE's website: <http://ike.roundtablelive.org/CARE>

Court of Appeals Says Landlords Are Responsible for Knowing the Law

A new decision by the Indiana Court of Appeals should be fair warning to Indiana landlords that ignorance of lead-based paint laws is no excuse. In an opinion issued on June 9, the court found a Decatur County landlord was "negligent per se" under Indiana law for failing to follow federal requirements related to lead-based paint.

In the case, Ben and Shona Erwin alleged that their two-and-a-half year old son was exposed to lead-based paint, plaster, and other materials in their rented home. The child had blood-lead levels reaching almost 40 micrograms/deciliter, according to their attorney, Todd Barnes. The boy went from "being able to talk and communicate as a normal two-year-old to talking like an eleven-month-old child," according to court records.

Landlord Brenda Roe's defense was that she didn't know about the federal Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act and didn't know there was lead in the rental unit. However, the Court of Appeals found, in a 3-0 decision, that ignorance of the law was not a defense. Roe should have provided the tenants with EPA's lead hazard information pamphlet and followed other requirements in the law.

"The fact that [the boy] ingested the paint chips was a foreseeable consequence that could have been prevented had Roe provided the Erwins with the informational pamphlet, the opportunity to conduct a risk assessment of the premises, or the required warning language in the lease," Judge Riley wrote for the court.



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“Once Roe was made aware of the defect, we find that Roe should have either repaired the problem or should have allowed the Erwins to break their lease and claim damages. In turn, the Erwins are required to demonstrate their damages for moving expenses, finding a comparable living arrangement, and the remainder of the lease.”

The case was sent back to the Decatur County trial court for further proceedings to determine whether Roe had enough time to fix the problem and to determine any damages due to the Erwins.

The full opinion can be found at this link: <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/opinions/pdf/06091001par.pdf>

Smart Schools Don't Idle

Help clean the air around your school by asking your principal to join “Smart Schools Don't Idle,” a program created by Improving Kids' Environment to encourage schools to adopt idle-free zones on their campuses. Many people do not understand that idling vehicles can create air pollution “hot spots” that can bring on an asthma attack and make even healthy children and adults feel poorly (headaches, itchy eyes, sore throats). On school grounds, idling vehicles include school buses, parents waiting to pick up or drop off children from school or other activities, and delivery vehicles. Often, the pickup/dropoff areas are located near fresh air intakes, so the vehicle exhaust is drawn right into classroom areas. IKE provides free “Idle-Free Zone” signs to participating schools and lesson plans for teachers on vehicle idling and air pollution. You could work to educate your school about vehicle idling and how to reduce air pollution from cars.

Please visit www.ikecoalition.org to view lesson plans available for elementary, middle school and high school students on vehicle idling and air pollution. These lesson plans are correlated to Indiana Department of Education state standards. Thanks to Duke Energy for its support of the Smarts Schools Don't Idle program. For more information about Smart Schools Don't Idle, please contact Ashley Sims at asims@ikecoalition.org or at 317-253-1312.

New Staff and Phone Number for IKE

IKE welcomed Ashley Sims and Julie Zimmer to our staff in September. Ashley comes to us from Public Allies, an Americorps program that allows her to serve IKE for 10 months. A graduate of Indiana University, Ashley is working on IKE's IPM Schools Coalition, Smart Schools Don't Idle and the Lead-Safe Homes Fund. Her email is asims@ikecoalition.org. Julie is IKE's new administrative assistant and will also be helping with grant writing and grant management. A graduate of the University of Illinois-Chicago, Julie is a mom of two young children who moved to Indiana with her family last spring. Her email is jzimmer@ikecoalition.org. You can reach them both at IKE's new office phone number: 317-253-1312. IKE is lucky to have both of them working to improve kids' environment!

IKE Building a New Website

IKE is building a new website that will have more features and greater ability to keep up with changing technology on the Internet. Be aware that if you currently link to IKE's website, those links will be broken when we make the switch. The switch will be made later this year. We hope you enjoy the new look and content on our new site, and its ability to communicate better with parents and caregivers.

USEFUL RESOURCES

USGS Mercury Report: The U.S. Geological Survey has released a new study: *Mercury in Indiana Watersheds: Retrospective for 2001-2006*. Mercury contamination in water and fish throughout Indiana has routinely exceeded levels recommended to protect people and wildlife.

About 1 in 8 fish samples tested statewide had mercury that exceeded the recommended safety limit for human consumption. The causes include mercury in the rain and mercury going down the drain, according to the USGS study. You can access the study on-line at: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/pp1780/>



School Siting Guidelines: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released new draft voluntary guidelines to help communities protect the health of students and staff when selecting new sites for schools. The draft school siting guidelines are web-based and will be available for public comment until Feb. 18, 2011. To review the draft guidelines, click on the following link or enter it into your browser: <http://www.epa.gov/schools/siting>. Comments will be accepted until 4 pm EST on Feb. 18. Instructions for commenting are provided on the web site. To read the press release, get answers to the most frequent questions about the draft school siting guidelines, and obtain information on EPA programs for existing schools, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/schools>.

Children's Health Research: Children's Health Collection 2010 comprises peer-reviewed research articles (including reviews and commentaries), news articles, editorials, and podcasts published in Environmental Health Perspectives the past year. Available now at this link: <http://ehp03.niehs.nih.gov/static/childrenshealth.action>

These articles are divided into two main sections—Disease Outcomes and Exposures—with more specific topics within each. With each research article is a brief summary of the objective and results. Each title is hyperlinked to take readers directly to the full article on the Environmental Health Perspectives website (<http://www.ehponline.org>).

Bed Bug Resources: Bed Bug populations are increasing nationwide and their control is difficult, time consuming, and often expensive. This Web page was developed as a resource for residents to learn about this problem, to provide information on their management, including the selection of insecticides and a pest management professional, and tell residents where to file a complaint if an improper pesticide application is suspected. This web site draws primarily from resources developed by EPA Region 5 partners and stakeholders. (<http://www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/ptb/pest/r5bedbugs.html>)

Toy Safety Report 2010: In this recently released report, U.S. PIRG provides safety guidelines for consumers when purchasing toys for small children and provides examples of toys currently on store shelves that may pose potential safety hazards. The 2010 report focuses on two categories of toy hazards: 1) toys that may pose choking hazards and 2) toys that contain toxic chemicals such as lead and phthalates. Over the past 25 years, the PIRG report has led to at least 150 recalls and other regulatory actions. View the report at:

<https://www.uspirg.org/home/reports/report-archives/product-safety/product-safety-reports/trouble-in-toyland-the-25th-annual-survey-of-toy-safety#id5D46tK-16AQSO-LcXSZcwA>

Asthma Knowledge Path: The Maternal and Child Health Library at Georgetown University released a new edition of a knowledge path about asthma in children and adolescents, its prevalence, and its impact on homes, schools, and communities. The knowledge path includes tools for improving asthma management and care and staying abreast of new developments in pediatric asthma research. Separate sections point to resources about environmental triggers, medications and monitoring, and asthma management in school. The knowledge path is available at: http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_asthma.html. A resource brief for families is available at: http://www.mchlibrary.info/families/frb_asthma.html.

Lead and Pregnancy: The lead and pregnancy document “Guidelines for the Identification and Management of Lead Exposure in Pregnant and Lactating Women” has been released by the Centers for Disease Control. You can link directly to the document on-line here: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/publications/LeadandPregnancy2010.pdf>. They also have a podcast available at: <http://www2c.cdc.gov/podcasts/player.asp?f=3467768>

Additional information on lead and pregnancy can be found here: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/pregnant.htm>

Chlorpyrifos Listed: Critical Windows of Development is an interactive website tool that pairs human development in the womb with laboratory research showing where and when low-dose exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals results in altered health outcomes. Chlorpyrifos now joins bisphenol A, phthalates, and dioxin in the timeline, which reveals effects of chlorpyrifos on the central nervous system, thyroid, heart, liver and more, in laboratory animals experiencing prenatal and early postnatal exposure. To see the timeline, go to: <http://www.endocrinedisruption.com/home.php>

Phosphorus-Free Lawns Pledge: It may be December, but it's not too early to think about how you'll care for your lawn in 2011. Did you know that an overabundance of phosphorus is damaging Indiana's waterways, causing algal blooms and disrupting food chains? Some algae can produce toxins that cause skin irritations and can harm people, pets and livestock if consumed. You can learn more about these

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issues and sign the phosphorus-free pledge at the Indiana Wildlife Federation's website: <http://www.indianawildlife.org/phosphorus.htm>.

Other News

IKE is very sad to report the passing of **Sarge Visser**, one of the founding board members of IKE and a long-time supporter of children's environmental health. Sarge graduated from Shimer College and IUPUI School of Law and practiced law – in the public and private sectors – for many years. He also proudly worked as Congresswoman Julia Carson's Chief of Staff until her death. One of Sarge's many pursuits was the advancement of veteran's rights. He served

in Vietnam and was awarded a purple heart and bronze star for that service. Sarge's advice and guidance were critical during IKE's early days and his connections in Indianapolis helped IKE form a strong foundation for its later success. We already miss his smiling countenance and wise advice.

We are also sorry to report the passing of **Mary Lou Wsol**, wife of **John Wsol**, lead outreach coordinator at U.S. EPA Region 5. Mary Lou passed away suddenly on Nov. 19. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for contributions to Rainbow Hospice, 444 N. Northwest Hwy, Park Ridge, IL. 60068. Info at 773-774-0366 or www.colonialfuneral.com.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 16	1:30 p.m.	Indiana Joint Asthma Coalition Meeting (click for more info)
Dec. 23-24		Christmas Holiday, IKE office closed
Jan. 22	8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Green Congregations Sustainable Food Workshop (registration info) Englewood Christian Church, 57 N. Rural, Indianapolis
Feb. 2	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Indiana IPM Schools Coalition Workshop: New School Pesticide Rules Pike Township Schools Admin. Building
Feb. 2	1:00 p.m.	IN Air Pollution Control Board hearing on Outdoor Wood Boiler Rule Tippecanoe Public Library, 627 South Street, Lafayette

What You Can Do to Protect Kids from Environmental Threats

Improving Kids' Environment

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- If you live in a home built before 1978, have your child and home tested for lead and learn about lead-safe renovation practices.
- Help reduce air pollution. Encourage schools to restrict vehicle idling in parking lots and to join the Smart Schools Don't Idle program.
- Reduce pesticide use. Encourage schools to adopt Integrated Pest Management practices, which use chemical pesticides as a last resort.
- Stay informed by becoming a supporter of Improving Kids' Environment at www.ikecoalition.org