



Village of Fox Crossing Fire Department

Public Education Division

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Home Environmental Safety

Many houses in rural communities are over 50 years old. As such, these homes usually do not meet current codes for safety, building standards, fire safety etc. As such, many of these homes may show signs of environmental hazards including mold, arsenic, contaminated water, radon, asbestos and lead.

These hazards can cause health problems that may not be easily recognized by a physician.

Test kits for some of the above items may be available from your local municipality.

Home environmental safety is of utmost concern as many items located within this subject are colorless, odorless and tasteless.

Don't delay in testing for safety—TODAY!

Home Environmental-Life Safety Tips

- ✓ You cannot see, smell, or taste lead. And, boiling your water will not get rid of lead in your water.
- ✓ The only way to know whether or not the water in your home is contaminated is to have a water sample tested.
- ✓ All molds should be treated with the same respect to potential health risks and removed.
- ✓ If you have an extensive amount of mold, you may want to contact a professional.
- ✓ Peeling, chipping, chalking or cracking lead based paint is a hazard and needs immediate attention.
- ✓ Asbestos is found in insulating jackets and sheathing around pipes and furnace of older homes, ceiling tiles, exterior roofing, shingles, siding, some wallboards and even some textured paints and patching compounds.

Did you know...?

- ✓ To help prevent mold, humidity levels in homes should be kept below 40%.
- ✓ Regarding ground water contamination, some water sources are not only unsafe to drink, but also unsafe for washing food, dishes or bathing.
- ✓ Lead: In the U.S., more than 10 million people may be drinking water that is contaminated with lead.
- ✓ About 70 million homes in the U.S. may still have chromate copper arsenate (CCA) treated wooden porches or decks. Inexpensive test kits are available.
- ✓ A certain amount of radon is found in all homes, however we suggest picking up a test kit and testing your home to find out what level you are at.
- ✓ Estimated at 20,000 deaths per year, radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S

Public Education: Our First Line of Defense!