

For Your Doctor / Para Su Médico

If you don't have health insurance, please call 211. Si no tiene seguro médico, por favor llame al 211.

Your patient lives near the Exide battery recycling plant in Vernon that released harmful chemicals such as lead and arsenic into surrounding communities. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is cleaning affected areas. Los Angeles County is providing information, blood lead testing, and other resources to community members. We encourage you to properly assess any of your patients that may be affected by the Exide plant and provide all medically necessary resources to properly evaluate and treat them.

Key Pollutants and Health Risks

Key pollutants that were released during the operations of the Exide plant included lead, arsenic, benzene, and 1,3-butadiene.

- **Lead:** Can harm the brain, kidneys, liver, and other organs. Children less than 6 years old and pregnant women are at higher risk.
- **Arsenic:** Repeated exposure is associated with cancers of the skin, lung, digestive tract, liver, and kidney.
- **Benzene:** May increase the risk of developing leukemia and other blood disorders
- **1,3-Butadiene:** Studies have shown that people who work around this chemical have increased risk of developing leukemia



What can you do?

- **Complete a "history and physical" and order the following screening laboratory tests:** CBC, comprehensive metabolic panel, urine analysis, blood lead level.
- **If the patient is uninsured:** Refer the patient to call 211 for assistance. Inform the patient that the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is offering free Blood lead level tests. They can make an appointment at 1-844-888-2290 or www.bloodleadtesting.com
- **Encourage practices to reduce lead exposure.**
 - Wash hands and toys often
 - Don't let children play on or eat dirt.
 - Take off your shoes before coming into your home.
 - Keep your pets clean
 - Wash clothes with dirt separately

