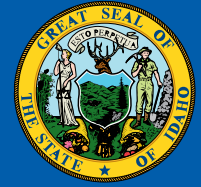




Environmental Health Activities in Idaho



NCEH in Partnership With Idaho

NCEH is the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH), a part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). NCEH's work focuses on three program areas: identifying environmental hazards, measuring exposure to environmental chemicals, and preventing health effects from environmental hazards. NCEH has more than 450 employees and an annual budget for 2003 of approximately **\$182 million**; its mission is to promote health and quality of life by preventing or controlling those diseases or deaths that result from interactions between people and their environment.

NCEH and partners throughout **Idaho** have teamed up on a variety of environmental health projects throughout the state. From **fiscal years 2001 through 2003**, NCEH awarded more than **\$680,000** in direct funds and services to Idaho for various projects. In addition, Idaho also benefits from national-level prevention and response activities conducted by NCEH or NCEH-funded partners.

Identifying Environmental Hazards

NCEH identifies, investigates, and tracks environmental hazards and their effects on people's health. Following are examples of such activities that NCEH has conducted or supported in **Idaho**.

Asthma

- **Developing a Comprehensive Asthma Plan**—In fiscal year 2001, NCEH began funding the **Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's Division of Health** to develop a comprehensive plan for addressing asthma issues. The purpose of the Idaho Statewide Asthma Plan is to provide a framework to guide the future direction of asthma prevention and control efforts. This plan will include six areas: health care access, environment, schools and child care settings, communication, surveillance, and policy development.

Radiologic Releases

- **Identification and Prioritization of Radiologic Releases From the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL)**—

In October 2002, NCEH released a report that discussed episodic and routine releases of radioactive materials from **INEEL** and possible exposure pathways for people living near the site. **INEEL** has operated more than 50 reactors during the past 40 years. NCEH is currently estimating doses to the public from the two largest release points, and CDC will publish this report in 2004.

From fiscal years 2001 through 2003, NCEH awarded more than \$680,000 in direct funds and services to Idaho.

Measuring Exposure to Environmental Chemicals

NCEH measures environmental chemicals in people to determine how to protect people and improve their health. Following is an example of such activities that NCEH has conducted or supported in **Idaho**.

Funding

- **Antiterrorism Funding to Increase State Chemical Laboratory Capacity**—In fiscal year 2003, CDC provided more than \$890,000 to **Idaho** to assist the state in expanding its chemical laboratory capacity to prepare and respond to chemical terrorism incidents and other chemical emergencies. This program expansion will allow for full participation of chemical-terrorism response laboratories in the Laboratory Response Network.

Preventing Health Effects From Environmental Hazards

NCEH promotes safe environmental public health practices to minimize exposure to environmental hazards and prevent adverse health effects. Childhood

lead-poisoning prevention is an example of these kinds of activities. NCEH has not recently conducted or supported any such activities in **Idaho**.

Resources

NCEH develops materials that public health professionals, medical care providers, emergency responders, decision makers, and the public can use to identify and track hazards in the environment that pose a threat to human health and to prevent or mitigate exposure to those hazards. NCEH's resources cover a range of environmental public health issues, including air pollution and respiratory health (e.g., asthma, carbon monoxide, and mold issues), biomonitoring to determine whether and how much of substances in the environment are getting into people, childhood lead poisoning, emergency preparedness and response for chemicals and radiation, environmental health services, environmental public health tracking, international emergency and refugee health, laboratory sciences as applied to environmental health, radiation studies, safe chemical weapons disposal, specific health studies, vessel sanitation, and veterans' health.

For more information about NCEH programs, activities, and publications and other resources, contact the NCEH Health Line toll-free at 1-888-232-6789, e-mail NCEHinfo@cdc.gov, or visit the NCEH Web site at www.cdc.gov/nceh.