



# Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

[of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment](#)



**Biweekly Bulletin August 26, 2009**

This bulletin lists upcoming events plus recent announcements, news and journal articles, calls for proposals and other items related to learning and developmental disabilities and environmental health. They are archived and searchable on LDDI's website:

<http://www.iceh.org/LDDIbulletins.html>

## LDDI Highlights

### **Next Meeting Call: September 15th**

The next LDDI working group meeting will be held on Tuesday September 15th at noon Eastern time/9:00 a.m. Pacific time. A call announcement and agenda will be sent out later this month, and if you would like to request any specific agenda items please contact Laura Abulafia: [laura@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:laura@healthandenvironment.org). Thank you!

### **New Clinician Guide**

The LDDI Mental Health working group is developing a new tri-fold Clinician Guide pamphlet. For more information, please contact Ed Seliger with NADD: [eseliger@thenadd.org](mailto:eseliger@thenadd.org).

### **Research and Science Teleconference: September 15th**

AAIDD's next research and science teleconference series presentation will be on Tuesday September 15th at 2:00 p.m. Eastern time. Titled "A Tale of 3 Neurotoxins: Lead, Tobacco, and Maternal Depression", it will feature Dr. Michael Weitzman. Please see event #5 below for more information.

### **LDDI Biomonitoring Project**

Results of the data collection for the LDDI biomonitoring project are now coming in. LDDI expects to release a major analysis and report on this project later in the fall. For more information please contact Laura Abulafia: [laura@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:laura@healthandenvironment.org).

### **Safer Chemicals Healthy Families Meeting**

There will be a Safer Chemicals Healthy Families leadership meeting in Washington, DC, in September, and the LDDI organizations will be represented in this important event. For more information you can contact Elise Miller: [elise@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:elise@healthandenvironment.org) or Joyce Martin at AAIDD: [jmartin@aaidd.org](mailto:jmartin@aaidd.org).

### **NADD Conference**

A preconference symposium on "Mental Health and Environmental Exposures: The Emerging Evidence" is planned for the 26th Annual NADD Conference and Exhibit Show, which is taking place in New Orleans, October 21 - 23, 2009. Elise Miller, MEd, is the preconference chair, and she is being joined by Theodore Slotkin, PhD, and Cheryl Beseler, PhD. For more information, visit the [conference website](#).

### **Scholarship Support for NADD Conference**

Family members and direct care providers that are interested in the upcoming NADD Annual Conference & Exhibit Show are encouraged to apply for a limited number of scholarships to help defray the cost of the conference for those who would otherwise not be able to attend. Requests received prior to September 1, 2009, will be given first

priority. [Visit the website](#) for more information.

## Upcoming Events

**Online Calendar.** These and more upcoming events are listed in a searchable calendar: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>

### **1) Facilitation Skills for Scientists and Resource Managers**

Tuesday through Thursday, September 1 - 3, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sacramento, California

at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West, 2200 Harvard Street

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

This course is intended to be a practical approach to improving group meetings. It is oriented specifically to the needs of scientists and resource managers. After core facilitation skills are practiced, the class will be tailored to the students' development needs. Participants will be asked to complete a pre-workshop skills profile. Students are presented with a wide array of tools and opportunities to practice new facilitation skills. The class includes continuing education units.

Price: \$695, or \$595 for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Northwest Environmental Training Center, 206-762-1976

### **2) 2009 Southeast Symposium: Children's Environmental Health**

Tuesday and Wednesday, September 8 - 9, 2009

noon - 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday and 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday

Atlanta, Georgia

at Rita Anne Rollins Room, Eighth Floor, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, 1518 Clifton Road

Sponsor: Southeast Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit at Emory University; collaborating agencies are US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4; Department of Health & Human Services; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

The topic for Tuesday is "Break the Cycle of Environmental Health Disparities", and Wednesday's topic is "Safe and Healthy School Environments." Speakers include Howard Frumkin, MD, MPH, DrPH; Leslie Rubin, MD; Robert Geller, MD; Robert O. Wright, MD, MPH, and many others.

Price: Tuesday's session is free; Wednesday's session is \$30 and includes lunch and materials

[Visit the website](#)

### **3) A Critical Link: The Environment and Women's Health**

Thursday September 10, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Burlington, Vermont

at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center

Sponsor: Planned Parenthood of Northern New England with funding from Seventh Generation, Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, The John Merck Fund and The Ceres Trust

In recent years there has been an increased awareness of the connections between environmental contaminants, fertility, and health - and a growing body of evidence supporting these concerns that link reduced fertility to pregnancy loss, adverse birth

outcomes, reproductive tract abnormalities, learning disabilities in children, and various cancers to environmental contaminants. It is becoming increasingly clear to those of us who work for women's health that we must begin to turn our attention to the environmental toxicants that are affecting the ability of couples to become pregnant, have a healthy pregnancy, and give birth to healthy children. At Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, we feel a responsibility as a health-care organization to help our patients and communities make the link between human health and the products we put in our bodies, and in our homes and schools. The keynote address will be given by Dr. Sandra Steingraber.

Price: \$60, students \$35, \$80 if CEUs are awarded.

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see [the contact page](#)

#### **4) Saving Our Kids, Healing Our Planet**

Saturday and Sunday, September 12 - 13, 2009

Newark, New Jersey

at the University of Medicine and Dentistry New Jersey Medical School

Sponsor: University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, The Autism Center, The Institute for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Vital Interventions Accessible

Saving Our Kids, Healing Our Planet is at the forefront of a new movement focused on sustainable living practices and safe and effective methods for preventing and recovering our children from ADHD, autism, allergies, asthma, obesity, diabetes etc. It is a forum where parents, teachers, therapists and physicians gather and learn from leading experts about safe and effective methods for preventing and treating many of the chronic conditions affecting our children today. Continuing education credits are available.

Price: \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door; children 15 and under are free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Maureen McDonnell, RN, 609-240-1315

#### **5) A Tale of Three Neurotoxins: Lead, Tobacco, and Maternal Depression**

Tuesday September 15, 2009

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities' Environmental Health Initiative

This presentation reviews what is known, and what we recognize that we still do not know, about the effects of low-level lead exposure, prenatal tobacco and postnatal secondhand smoke exposure, and maternal depression on child behavior and development. Although the research and knowledge bases concerning these extremely common childhood exposures with extensive negative effects have developed separately, with different investigators and publications in disparate literatures and fields, their epidemiology (distribution, determinants and consequences) are quite similar, and even more worrisome, they tend to cluster and co-occur in the same children. At the end of this presentation the audience will have a much better appreciation of the risks for being exposed to, and the consequences of each of these exposures, as well as strategies for prevention and treatment. The speaker will be Michael Weitzman, MD, professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at New York University School of Medicine.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Laura Abulafia, [Laura@aaidd.org](mailto:Laura@aaidd.org)

### **6) Promoting Environmental and Policy Change to Support Healthy Aging**

Tuesday and Wednesday, September 15 - 16, 2009

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Sponsor: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Prevention Research Centers, Healthy Aging Research Network

This symposium will address the challenges amenable to environmental and policy change; the evidence that supports specific approaches and their outcomes; and promising strategies for practice.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Gwen Moni, 206-616-1012 or [gmoni@u.washington.edu](mailto:gmoni@u.washington.edu)

### **7) Healthy Homes Conference**

Tuesday through Thursday, September 15 - 17, 2009

Boise, Idaho

at the WGI Auditorium, 720 Park Boulevard

Sponsor: Idaho Healthy Homes Network

The Healthy Homes Conference brings together presenters to discuss the connection between health and housing and how to take a comprehensive approach to identify and resolve problems; new federal regulations requiring control of lead-based paint hazards during renovation, repair and painting; special considerations for children's health; health concerns related to housing, including radon and mold; public and private program funding for health and housing programs; housing code development and enforcement; relationship between green, energy-efficient and healthy housing; collaboration between health, housing and environmental professionals to develop state and local healthy homes programs. The conference is designed for professionals or students working in the areas of affordable housing, community service delivery, and environmental public health; people who provide health or inspection services of any type; agency, department, and division heads; child-care providers; Head Start agencies; community police officers; code officials; builders/renovators and others

Price: \$36

[Visit the website](#)

### **8) Fifth International Conference on the Impact of Environmental Factors on Health**

Monday through Wednesday, September 21 - 23, 2009

New Forest, England United Kingdom

at the Wessex Institute, Ashurst Lodge

Sponsor: Wessex Institute of Technology: Transactions on Biomedicine and Health

Health problems related to the environment have become a major source of concern all over the world. The conference aims to provide a forum for the dissemination and exchange of information on the diverse aspects of the impact of environmental factors on health across different disciplines.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Rachel Swinburn, 44-0-238-029-3223 or [rswinburn@wessex.ac.uk](mailto:rswinburn@wessex.ac.uk)

### **9) 2009 Rachel Carson Legacy Conference**

Friday September 25, 2009

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

at the Bidwell Training Center, 1815 Metropolitan Street

Sponsor: The Rachel Carson Homestead Association

The conference theme is "When Chemicals Disrupt: Managing Our Risks." This conference will address the dichotomy between critical protection of the environment (and our bodies and those of the next generations) from endocrine disrupting contaminants and the unbridled economic interest of those who produce substances which directly or indirectly act as endocrine or developmental disruptors. We seek an open dialogue with the objective of identifying a set of mechanisms that can have rapid effect on the control of endocrine disrupting substances flowing into the environment as bio-accumulating contaminants. Mounting scientific evidence on a global scale compels immediate and effective action. However, there is widespread disagreement on the best course of action, and in particular, on the role of regulation in accomplishing change. The conference will approach the topic of endocrine disruptors in three parts: policy, science and remedies. Speakers to date include Linda Birnbaum, PhD, MPH; Terry Collins, Ken Cook and many others.

Price: \$90; preregistration and prepayment is required

[Visit the website](#)

## Announcements & Articles

A daily news feed with these articles and announcements is now available on CHE's website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce>.

### **Casting Call for 'Planet Green.'**

This project is a grassroots "how to" show on busting illegal polluters and other perpetrators of environmental crime: How to identify possible crimes; how to investigate, monitor and collect evidence against the perpetrators; and how to bring that evidence to the proper authorities for enforcement, or bring a citizens lawsuit against the offender under the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, etc. We are looking for candidates who live within the greater metropolitan New York or Los Angeles areas, and we are looking for them as soon as possible. Contact David Kirby immediately with a bio and a head shot: [dkirby@nyc.rr.com](mailto:dkirby@nyc.rr.com)

### **Job opening: Washington, DC.**

The nationally accredited journalism program of The School of Communication at American University is seeking an experienced journalist with a strong record/expertise in health, science, and/or environmental journalism for a tenure-track position beginning in August 2010.

### **Job opening: Richmond, California.**

Sequoia Foundation is seeking a full-time project coordinator for the California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program (CECBP) within the California Department of Public Health. The project coordinator will coordinate a variety of complex administrative activities to be conducted by the collaborating groups under a federally funded grant.

### **Job opening: Richmond, California.**

Sequoia Foundation is seeking a full-time field investigations coordinator (FIC) for the California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program (CECBP) within the California Department of Public Health. The FIC will facilitate and manage a variety of biomonitoring field investigations to be conducted by the CECBP under a federally funded grant.

### **Smart Guide: Hormones in the Food System**

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy has released a new Smart Guide examining the prevalence of synthetic hormones in the food system -- and the risks such hormones may pose to human health.

### **Request for comments: Perchlorate regulatory determination.**

EPA is considering a broad range of alternatives for interpreting the available data on the level of health concern, the frequency of occurrence of perchlorate in drinking water, and the opportunity for health-risk reduction through a national primary drinking water standard. The agency specifically requests comment upon alternative approaches for considering perchlorate exposure to different life stages and sensitive populations including pregnant women and children. EPA will consider the comments before making a final regulatory determination for perchlorate. Comments must be received on or before September 18, 2009.

**[CDC Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute applications open.](#)**

EPHLI is a one-year program of seminars and workshops, special projects and individual study. Each year, approximately 30 practicing environmental public health professionals participate. Applications for the class of 2010-2011 will be accepted until October 31, 2009.

**[EPA seeks comment on options to reduce air pollution coming from Four Corners power plants.](#)**

The US Environmental Protection Agency is seeking public comment on its technical analysis and options for reducing air pollution from two power plants in the Four Corners area that affect air quality and visibility at nearby national parks, wilderness areas, and national monuments.

**[Housekeeping channel partnership to improve home cleanliness and health.](#)**

The Housekeeping Channel (HC) and the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) have announced a collaboration that will bring consumers the research necessary to help them make informed decisions to keep their homes clean and healthy.

**[EPA makes preliminary toxics release data available to the public.](#)**

The US Environmental Protection Agency has published preliminary data on the release of toxic chemicals occurring in the United States between Jan.1 and Dec. 31, 2008.

**[The Researcher's Perspective.](#)**

Environmental Health Perspectives now publishes a new podcast series, "The Researcher's Perspective." Hear about the motivation and vision behind the research as well as the implications for human health -- all direct from the source.

**[CHEJ releases PVC-free back-to-school guide.](#)**

CHEJ has created a Back-to-School Guide to PVC-Free School Supplies to empower you to make smarter, healthier shopping choices for a toxic-free future. There's also a wallet-sized version of the guide. Center for Health, Environment & Justice.

**[Call for proposals: Materials Management Assistance Grants.](#)**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 10 is soliciting proposals to fund projects that address solid waste reduction, stewardship and materials management. Proposals are due October 5, 2009, and an informational webinar will be held on Thursday September 17, 2009.

**[Call for proposals: Pesticide Safety Program.](#)**

EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) is soliciting applications to support a national and international pesticide safety program to assess and develop health and safety programs aimed at reducing exposure to pesticides for agricultural workers, pesticide applicators, growers, health providers, pesticide producers and retailers, as well as local, state, national and international organizations and government agencies, and other members of the agricultural community. Applications are due October 2, 2009.

**[Call for proposals: Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup Grant.](#)**

These grants may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum). The proposal deadline is October 16, 2009. US Environmental Protection Agency.



**[Brain experts check suntan nanos.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 25, 2009*

University of Ulster scientists are to examine a link between some man-made nanoparticles, such as those found in sunscreens, and Alzheimer's disease. BBC.

**[Nicotine in cars adds support for ban against smoking and driving: study.](#)**

*Tuesday, August 25, 2009*

Nicotine levels are "strikingly higher" in smokers' cars than in non-smokers' vehicles, and even exceed those found in public or private indoor spaces where tobacco use is allowed, a study has found. Canadian Press.

**[No mercury in most children's vaccines.](#)**

*Monday, August 24, 2009*

After hearing the warnings about the mercury we ingest when eating fish, it might seem like a bad idea to use mercury in vaccines. But some scientists say that the mercury used with some vaccines is much different than the methyl mercury that comes from fish. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pennsylvania.

[See a related article: [Gulf War toxins in swine flu vaccine](#)]

**[Illinois pollution enforcement hampered by politics.](#)**

*Sunday, August 23, 2009*

Toxic sludge oozed out of rusty barrels, soaked through cardboard boxes and spilled over frothy vats inside a west suburban warehouse raided by state inspectors in January 2008. Even though the Illinois EPA had plenty of evidence to file charges, top agency officials sat on the case for more than a year. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

**[Clock ticks down on a deadly chemical stockpile.](#)**

*Sunday, August 23, 2009*

The aging arsenal at the Blue Grass Army Depot contains 523 tons of liquid VX and sarin -- lethal nerve agents produced during the Cold War -- and mustard, a blister agent that caused horrific casualties in World War I. Los Angeles Times, California. 23 August 2009.

**[Getting the lead out.](#)**

*Sunday, August 23, 2009*

Some of Evansville's oldest and poorest neighborhoods are on the verge of becoming a Superfund site targeted for a widespread cleanup of soils contaminated with lead from the smokestacks of factories long gone. Evansville Courier & Press, Indiana.

**[BPA industry fights back.](#)**

*Sunday, August 23, 2009*

Faced with the prospects of tighter government regulation of bisphenol A, the industry has launched an unprecedented public relations blitz that uses many of the same tactics -- and people -- the tobacco industry used in its decades-long fight against regulation. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin.

**[Debating how much weed killer is safe in your water glass.](#)**

*Saturday, August 22, 2009*

New research suggests that atrazine may be dangerous at lower concentrations than previously thought. Recent studies suggest that, even at concentrations meeting current federal standards, the chemical may be associated with birth defects, low birth weights and menstrual problems. New York Times.

[See related articles : [Lawsuit questions safety of herbicide](#) and [Atrazine acts in the brain to disrupt the hormones that trigger ovulation](#)]

**[Chips and science out of sync.](#)**

*Saturday, August 22, 2009*

Mobile phone shields can be expensive and do little to protect people from radiation. Sydney Australian, Australia.

**[Minorities underrepresented in EPA outreach on Dow dioxin.](#)**

*Friday, August 21, 2009*

Black and Latino residents are less likely to know about dioxin fish advisories but more

likely to fish for and eat the most contaminated varieties of fish such as catfish and carp. Michigan Messenger, Michigan.

[See a related article about industrial pollution's effects on a minority community: [The fire this time](#)]

### **[What is wrong with estrogen-mimicking hormones?](#)**

Friday, August 21, 2009

A host of common chemicals is feminizing males of every class of vertebrate animals, from fish to mammals, including humans. Collingwood Enterprise Bulletin, Ontario.

[See a related article: [The new normal in puberty](#)]

### **[Cigarette packaging may still mislead consumers.](#)**

Friday, August 21, 2009

While many countries have banned terms like "light" and "low-tar" from cigarette packs, other aspects of the products' packaging may also be misleading consumers, a new study suggests. Reuters Health.

### **[CDC: Lead dust in cars source of kids' poisoning.](#)**

Friday, August 21, 2009

Some childhood lead poisonings in Maine last year came from an unusual source -- lead dust tracked into the family car. Government health officials said Thursday the six cases are the first ever attributed to lead dust on childhood safety seats. Associated Press.

### **[Green groups sue Chevron Phillips over pollution.](#)**

Thursday, August 20, 2009

Two environmental groups have filed a lawsuit against Chevron Phillips Chemical Co LP over alleged violations of the U.S. Clean Air Act at its Cedar Bayou plant, located east of Houston, representatives of the groups said on Wednesday. Reuters.

### **[Doing more harm than good.](#)**

Thursday, August 20, 2009

Why let hazardous, toxic, and even carcinogenic chemicals into your home every day? Here is a list of the 10 products to ban from your home forever, along with suggested alternatives. Vancouver North Shore News, British Columbia.

### **[Scientists uncover new ocean threat from plastics.](#)**

Thursday, August 20, 2009

Scientists have identified a new source of pollution released by the huge amounts of plastic rubbish floating in the oceans of the world. A study has found that as plastics break down in the sea they release potentially toxic substances [such as bisphenol A polystyrene-based (PS) oligomers] not found in nature. London Independent, United Kingdom.

### **[Mercury contaminates all fish tested in river study, U.S. says.](#)**

Thursday, August 20, 2009

Mercury contaminated every fish studied in 291 U.S. streams and rivers tested by scientists, and one in four had levels unsafe for people who eat average amounts of fish, a government report said today. Bloomberg News.

[See related articles: [Great Salt Lake stands out -- for mercury pollution](#), [Two studies show extent of mercury in environment and how it becomes toxic](#) and [DEQ to help polluter seek federal break on mercury emission](#)]

### **[Discontinued pajama flame retardant detected in baby products and house dust.](#)**

Thursday, August 20, 2009

The new paper documents the presence of tris(1,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate (TDCPP or TDCP) in the foam padding of products intended for use by children, as well as in dust from U.S. homes. Environmental Science & Technology.

### **[Back to school - and healthy, too.](#)**

Tuesday, August 18, 2009

As a parent you do your best to make sure your child stays safe and healthy at home...then you send them off the school and hope for the best. The Health Show.



### **'The clunkers of the power-plant world.'**

*Monday, August 17, 2009*

If a climate-change bill drives up the cost of opening new plants, but provides free emissions allowances or potential carbon offsets for existing facilities, companies could have an incentive to squeeze even more power out of their old plants, many of which are running well below capacity. Washington Post.

### **State bans BPA in plastics.**

*Monday, August 17, 2009*

Gov. M. Jodi Rell Tuesday visited an infant and toddler day care center in West Hartford to highlight the signing of new legislation that will ban a chemical used in plastics and packaging -- bisphenol-A, that has been linked to health risks in humans, especially in the very young. Darien Times, Connecticut.

[See related articles: [Another BPA ban OK'd](#), [FDA to reconsider BPA's use in food packaging](#) and [Time to dump your bisphenol-A baby bottle?](#) about a bottle swap in Los Angeles]

### **China plant stormed over lead poisoning of children.**

*Monday, August 17, 2009*

Chinese protesters on Monday broke into a smelting works they blame for the lead poisoning of hundreds of children, smashing trucks and tearing down fences, state news agency Xinhua said. Reuters.

[See related articles: [Lead poisoning scare spreads to central China](#) and [Q+A -- China's pressing pollution problem](#)]

### **Leasing space for cell towers is lucrative and controversial.**

*Sunday, August 16, 2009*

Federal law says towns and cities have to allow wireless companies to provide coverage, and it also bars them from using health concerns to deny a project. Metro West Daily News, Massachusetts.

### **A gritty problem.**

*Sunday, August 16, 2009*

As New Bedford is belatedly learning, the more you look for pollution in old brownfields, the more you are likely to find. Costs escalate, yet no cleanup or amount of testing may ever be thorough enough to make people feel safe, especially when children are involved. Boston Globe, Massachusetts.

[See a related article: [Redeveloping brownfield sites a complicated process](#)]

### **Timing of toxic exposures crucial to disease.**

*Saturday, August 15, 2009*

During early childhood, humans are most vulnerable to even small amounts of environmental toxins. What's more troubling is that some of the effects of these exposures may only be seen or felt much later on in life. Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippines.

### **AstroTurf to eliminate lead from fields.**

*Saturday, August 15, 2009*

AstroTurf agreed to reformulate its products, replace lead-tainted fields and playground surfaces installed over the last five years and pay thousands in fines, according to a settlement the California Attorney's General's Office will announce Friday. USA Today.

### **Fatty foods affect memory and exercise.**

*Friday, August 14, 2009*

Eating fatty food appears to take an almost immediate toll on both short-term memory and exercise performance, according to new research on rats and people. New York Times.

[See related articles: [Battling inflammation, disease through food](#) and [Mediterranean diet, physical activity linked with lower risk of Alzheimer disease](#)]

### **Battle over chemical used to make non-stick pans heats up.**

*Friday, August 14, 2009*

The tug-of-war between the state of New Jersey and DuPont over perfluorooctanoic acid, PFOA, in drinking water has reached a critical stage, according to documents posted Wednesday. Environmental News Service.

**[Methyl iodide, a fumigant under fire.](#)**

*Friday, August 14, 2009*

California just completed an assessment which indicates that the pesticide methyl iodide presents significant health risks to farm workers. The U.S. EPA approved the use of methyl iodide in 2008, after ignoring calls from leading scientists for an independent review. Environmental Science & Technology.

**[New lead limits take effect for small businesses.](#)**

*Friday, August 14, 2009*

Tighter limits on the amount of lead the government allows in children's products and a requirement for new tracking labels are stirring fear among small business owners, already hurting in a tough economy. Associated Press.

[See a related article about regulations relating to house renovations: [Lead-paint regs bring friction](#)]

**[Biomonitoring data for 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid in the US and Canada: Interpretation in a public health risk assessment context using biomonitoring equivalents.](#)**

*Thursday, August 13, 2009*

This case study demonstrates the value of biomonitoring data in assessing population exposures in the context of existing risk assessments using the BE approach. Environmental Health Perspectives.

**[The severity of autism is associated with toxic metal body burden and red blood cell glutathione levels.](#)**

*Wednesday, August 12, 2009*

This study demonstrates a significant positive association between the severity of autism and the relative body burden of toxic metals.

**[Toxic water a genuine threat.](#)**

*Wednesday, August 12, 2009*

A tide of toxic water laced with carcinogenic heavy metals, sulphates and radioactive uranium seeping into our water and food supply; radioactive dust particles carried on the wind -- these are a daily reality caused by more than a century of mining in South Africa. Johannesburg Citizen, South Africa.

**[Author speaks on toxins in the home.](#)**

*Wednesday, August 12, 2009*

Authors Rick Smith and Bruce Laurie say their goal is to increase understanding of the chemicals so the public can avoid them, but also so the government will regulate what can and can't make its way into human bodies. And the campaign is working. Minden Times, Ontario.

**[Pesticides in your peaches: Tribune and USDA studies find pesticides, some in excess of EPA rules, in the fragrant fruit.](#)**

*Wednesday, August 12, 2009*

Five of the more than 50 pesticide compounds found on domestic and imported peaches headed to U.S. stores exceeded limits set by the EPA, while six of the compounds present are not approved for use on peaches in the United States. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

*Most of the news articles above come from Environmental Health News.*

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment offers this information as a service but does not endorse any of the events, articles or announcements.

Companion bulletins are available for different audiences:

- For those interested in general children's environmental health: [http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working\\_groups/childrens\\_health/bulletins](http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins)
- For those interested in environmental health in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest: <http://washington.chenw.org/bulletins.html>

While there is overlap with this bulletin, there are some events and announcements unique to those bulletins.

If you would like to join the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) and the LDDI Working Group, please complete the application on the CHE website:

<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/application> Joining CHE means receiving up to four email messages a month from the CHE National listserv. CHE costs nothing to join and the benefit is shared information and opportunities for further engagement, if you choose. Be sure to mark that you want to join the Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative Working Group at the bottom of the application.

Nancy Snow  
**Collaborative on Health and the Environment**

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