



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Pollution Prevention Champion

Hospitals for a Health Environment (H2E Project)

2005

Environmental Commitment

Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) is a voluntary program to help health care facilities reduce the amount and toxicity of the wastes they generate. H2E partner hospitals pledge their commitment to eliminate mercury; minimize waste; and reduce use of hazardous and persistent, bioaccumulative toxic substances, while setting their own, facility-specific goals.

Eight Idaho hospitals have joined to become H2E "Partners":

- Bonner General Hospital
- Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center
- Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Hospital
- Magic Valley Regional Medical Center
- McCall Memorial Hospital
- Mercy Medical Center
- Portneuf Medical Center
- West Valley Medical Center

Pollution Prevention Successes

Mercury Elimination

Four of the eight H2E Partner hospitals are virtually mercury-free. Many others have conducted inventories of all mercury-containing equipment and made plans to replace it with mercury-free alternatives where feasible. For example:

Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Hospital replaced all patient mercury thermometers with mercury-free ones, including those sold in their pharmacy and sent home with patients. Also, six sphygmomanometers were replaced with mercury-free units eliminating 480 grams of mercury. Idaho Elks has established a mercury management policy and has set a goal to be mercury-free by 2006.

Green Purchasing

Many health care facilities have reviewed their cleaning products and processes to identify less hazardous options. For example, hospitals may switch from an acid-based toilet bowl cleaner to a non-acid based cleaner or use microfiber mops, which clean better, are more efficient, and require less floor cleaner.

Conservation

Bonner General Hospital, St. Luke's Wood River Medical Facility, and Portneuf Medical Center are enhancing existing recycling efforts or implementing new programs to recycle paper, cardboard, or aluminum.

For More Information

Contact Lisa Kramer at (208) 373-0282 or visit www.h2e-online.org.

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