



## 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](http://www.h2e-online.org).

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