

CT CHILD DAYCARE SAFER PROGRAM

Screening Assessment for Environmental Risk



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OVERVIEW OF TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- Rational for child care siting program
- CT SAFER program summary
- Local health department role
- Case examples
- Positive impacts/lessons learned

WHY THE CONCERN?

Children at greater risk from exposure to contaminants:

- physiology
- rapidly developing bodies
- behaviors
(such as mouthing objects)



WHY DID WE START A DAYCARE SITING PROGRAM?

- Highly publicized daycare closures-NY & NJ
- Do not want new regulations
- Desire to control program design



WHAT IS THE CHILD DAYCARE SAFER PROGRAM?

- Process that identifies licensed daycares where residual chemicals from past or current operations could pose an exposure concern.
- Safer siting of new daycares



CONNECTICUT APPROACH

- Proactive, non-regulatory
- Finds daycares on/near waste sites
- Raises awareness about safe child care siting
- Collaborative



OUTREACH AND TRAINING

Training

- Daycare licensing inspectors-annual
- Town planner association, presentation
- Daycare nursing consultants training

Outreach

- Local health departments mailing
- SAFER brochure
- SAFER article in childcare provider newsletter



HOW DO WE IDENTIFY POTENTIAL PROBLEM DAYCARES?



Not Yet Implemented



MANUAL CROSSCHECK- NEW DAYCARES

- Daycare licensing program notifies EOHA if daycare is on same street or address as waste site
- EOHA followup as needed

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CHECKLIST

Characteristics to look for:

- Outdoor property attributes
- Building attributes
- Adjacent business

EXAMPLES OF WHAT TO LOOK FOR DURING INSPECTIONS

DISCARDED DRUMS OR BARRELS



OLD CAR/VEHICLE PARTS



BARN (FARM MACHINERY /EQUIPMENT)



ADJACENT BUSINESSES



OLD GATES RUBBER FACTORY DENVER, COLORADO



PROPERTY HISTORY QUESTIONNAIRE

- Voluntary but part of license application
- Past use checklist
- Site assessment docs
- Visual clues

ELECTRONIC DATABASE COMPARISON

- Geocode waste sites and daycares
- Comparison based on distance
- Will occur at least annually
- EOHA followup on daycares located <math>< 1/8</math> mile from a site



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EOHA FOLLOWUP

- Gather information
 - state and local agencies, consultants, property owner
- Site file review
- Site visit

EOHA ROLE

- Coordination
- Communication with daycare inspectors
- Exposure/risk assessment
- Data review
- Risk communication
- Recommendations
- Documentation

SINCE 2007 ROLLOUT

- 38 Referrals

Environmental Issues

- Leaking UST
- Groundwater issue
- Soil (former pesticide factory)
- Indoor air quality (former funeral home, nail salon, auto paint store)

CASE EXAMPLES

MANUAL CROSS CHECK: FORMER NET MANUFACTURER

- Playground arsenic in soil > state standards
- Cleaned up
- Risk communication to parents and teachers



DAYCARE INSPECTOR FORM: ADJACENT TO NAIL SALON

- Performed site visit
- Local health dept. recently inspected nail salon
- Nail salon confirmed floor treatment system and a separate venting



POSITIVE HEALTH IMPACTS

- Raised awareness of daycare siting exposure issues
- Our recommendations were implemented
- Issues are successfully addressed
- Improved environmental health practices in daycares, (e.g. Green cleaning)
- Model for other state and federal programs

LESSONS LEARNED

- Possible to do with existing staff
- Not a burden on inspectors
- Stress that work isn't time consuming
- Hasn't slowed licensing



QUESTIONS?

