

**Protect Yourself! You may be exposed to:**

## Lead Based Paint

Demolition, repair, and renovation operations often generate dangerous airborne concentrations of lead, a metal that can cause damage to the nervous system, kidneys, blood forming organs, and reproductive system if inhaled or ingested in dangerous quantities.

### How you become exposed to lead

About half of homes built before 1978 have lead-based paint. The likelihood of finding lead-based paint increases with the age of the home:

- Two out of three of homes built between 1940 and 1960 have lead-based paint.
- Nine out of ten homes built before 1940 have lead-based paint.

Significant lead exposures can also occur when paint is removed from surfaces previously covered with lead-based paint.

### Operations that can generate lead dust and fumes include:

- Demolition of structures;
- Use of heat guns, sanders, scrapers, or grinders to remove lead paint

### Protecting yourself

Without the right personal protective equipment, volunteers may ingest or inhale lead from the job and may risk bringing lead from the worksite.

The following items are available and should be used:

- Hat
- Tyvek Suit
- Respirator

These items should be disposed of after the job is complete.



This is one in a series of [Volunteer Safety Information](#) Fact Sheets highlighting Samaritan's Purse North American Ministries programs, policies, or standards.