

Press Release

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LEAD CONTINUES TO HAUNT OLD SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND BUSINESSES, AND NOW EPA REGULATIONS TIGHTEN

ALBANY, NY, OCTOBER 25, 2010: Several schools and businesses in the region have been experiencing significant issues with very high levels of lead within their buildings, causing concern among administrators, parents and business owners. In one case, levels were 83 times the level deemed acceptable by the Environmental Protection Agency. The source of the lead in many cases is old paint and varnishes.

This year, Federal Environmental Protection Agency regulations governing improvements and repairs have been tightened as they pertain to structures built prior to 1978. This has affected the industry from top to bottom by requiring those trades that disturb these materials to be certified in doing so. Any repairs performed by contractors must be done by contractors who have undergone specialized education in the removal and disposal of lead-based paint. These new EPA rules will likely be problematic for a short while, at least until enough contractors have been through the training.

But among the several area construction, electrical, plumbing, painting, and restoration contractors have already come in to compliance, is ServiceMaster® of Upstate New York, who currently have three people certified for these projects and the company is also certified through the EPA. ServiceMaster® of Upstate New York began applying their training immediately upon implementation of the new federal regulations and will continue to do so on all projects going forward.

Failure to comply to these regulations can cost penalties of up to \$37,500 for each offense.

A major part to the guidelines is the notification and posting process which requires the restoration company to notify a home or business owner with an EPA Renovate Right pamphlet. All of the requirements can be found at www.epa.gov/lead/

ServiceMaster® of Upstate New York serves businesses and residents in Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Saratoga, Warren, Washington, and upper Greene counties. They have been serving the Upstate New York area since 1985 with Disaster Restoration Services including fire, soot, odor, water damage and pack-outs.

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