

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Renovator Training Program Honors Vets and Supports Local Employment

County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr. today announced that the County's *Lead Primary Prevention Program* will provide a free course of instruction through its Renovator Training program to as many as ten Oneida County veterans who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan, as a way of honoring their service to our country.

"Those veterans with construction skills who seek employment in rehabilitation-type work may find changes in the law pertaining to lead-safe work practices that have been enacted during their absence," Picente said. He continued, "This free training provides a valuable opportunity for our veterans to acquire the necessary training to upgrade their job skills and honors them for their service this Veterans' Day."

The 8-hour class provides instruction on how to identify lead hazards; perform legal notification that lead renovation work will be performed; develop a safety plan to protect against lead exposure, including the erection of a containment area to mitigate lead dust exposure; and proper clean-up and record keeping. The class is offered through Mohawk Valley Community College at both the Utica and Rome campuses and costs \$215. The first ten Oneida County veterans of either war who apply by November 20th will receive a certificate entitling them to enroll in the course between November 2013 and February 2014 at no cost. Those wishing to apply must provide the branch of the military in which they served and the dates of service. To apply, call the Lead Primary Prevention Program at (315) 266-6147.

As of April 2010, Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations require contractors and landlords who perform their own renovations on pre-1978 housing be certified in lead-safe work practices. Failure to complete this training could result in a violation of federal law resulting in a fine of up to \$37,500 and put the contractor or landlord at risk for a liability should a tenant become lead poisoned as a result of renovation work without employing lead-safe work practices.

"All Oneida County residents who are planning renovations to their homes built before 1978 are urged to hire only those contractors who have completed the required training and are EPA certified to insure the work is completed safely," Picente said. "In this way, we move closer to our goal of eliminating childhood lead poisoning in our community."

For more information on lead-safe work practices or a list of EPA certified contractors in Oneida County visit our web site at www.ocgov.net/oneida/health or call the Lead Primary Prevention Program at (315) 266-6147.