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Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Windham County Lead Hazard Control Program marks
2 first year with 388 Lead-Safe certifications

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 Representatives from the Windham County Lead Hazard
6 Control and Healthy Homes Capacity Building Program says the
7 organization has provided 388 free lead-based paint safety
8 certifications since launching in 2024.

9 Participants — including contractors, property owners
10 and property managers — are helping expand lead-safe work
11 across Vermont. Administered through the Windham County

12 Sheriff's Office, the program lays the groundwork for future lead
13 hazard reduction grants in the county.

14 Training is available to Vermonters and those who work
15 in Vermont through accredited providers. Available certifications
16 include Renovation, Repair, Painting, and Maintenance (RRPM)
17 and Lead Abatement Worker and Supervisor. Through
18 partnerships with Lead-Edu and Evergreen Environmental Health
19 & Safety, eligible participants can have their training cost fully
20 covered at checkout using code LeadSafeVT while grant funds are
21 available.

22 In a news release, Sheriff Mark Anderson, who directs
23 the program, said addressing lead hazards aligns directly with his
24 office's commitment to community safety.

25 "Lead exposure is a serious public health issue that
26 directly impacts community safety, making this work a natural fit
27 for the Sheriff's Office. This initiative develops a workforce that
28 creates jobs and keeps Vermont families safe from the harmful
29 effects of lead. We are proud of our first year but recognize there
30 is real need in our communities. This work sets the stage for
31 future lead hazard reduction grants that will create a stronger,
32 healthier Windham County and a stronger Vermont."

33 The Vermont Department of Health Asbestos and Lead
34 Regulatory Program credited the program with driving interest in
35 lead-safe licensing across the state.

36 "In the first year of this grant, the program's outreach and
37 free trainings have helped increase interest in several Vermont
38 licenses, including RRPM, lead abatement, and lead consulting,"
39 said Amy Danielson, manager of the Health Asbestos and Lead
40 Regulatory Program. "The program has also helped us connect
41 with New Hampshire contractors and explore ways to reduce
42 barriers to working in Vermont. We look forward to continuing
43 this collaboration with Windham County."

44 For more information about the program and upcoming
45 training opportunities, visit lead.windhamcountylvt.gov/about or

46 contact Elisha Underwood at
47 eunderwood@windhamcountyvt.gov or call 802-212-1548.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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