

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

From the Director of Health and Safety
Lead Industries Association, Inc.
292 Madison Ave.
New York 17, N. Y.



Look Ahead with Lead

LEAD HYGIENE and
SAFETY BULLETIN
No. 149

May 27, 1963

To Members of the Lead Industries Association, Inc.:

Coroner Reconsiders "Lead Poisoning" Case

Occasionally we are able to exert a favorable influence and combat a spurious allegation of lead poisoning, as in the death of a small child in St. Louis recently which was originally brought to our attention by several of our member companies. We believe that the successful outcome of this incident is a good example of concerted effort by members of our Association in first bringing the matter to our attention and in following through with the facts.

The first news story quoted the St. Louis County Coroner's physician as saying that the young boy had died as a result of lead intoxication following the parent's use of paint on interior cupboards and shelves of the house. Since such an eventuality is highly unlikely and is further without medical precedence, we wrote to that effect to the St. Louis County Coroner. Additional tests and studies made by the Coroner substantiated our position that lead was not involved in the boy's illness and a retraction was made both by the Coroner's Letter To The People and in a news item published in the same paper which had printed the first false analysis of the situation.

We thought you would be interested in a documentation of this case, and we wish to thank our several members who kindly supplied us with the necessary information on which to take action.

Very truly yours,

Don G. Fowler
Don G. Fowler

DGF:md
Enc. (3)

BOY DIES, FUMES FROM PAINT BLAMED

Allen W. Smith, 5 years old, was found dead in bed this morning, apparently the victim of lead intoxication from inhaling paint fumes, St. Louis county Coroner Raymond I. Harris said.

The child was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. Smith, 1128 Spring Valley Drive, Flammang. He had become ill on Sunday and again yesterday, the coroner said.

Mrs. Smith told Harris that she had painted shelves in the home, beginning last Saturday. Some of the shelves were taken to the basement for drying. Harris said fumes probably were carried through the ducts.

The coroner's physician reported that the lead intoxication affected the victim's brain. He said young children are particularly susceptible to the fumes.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith and two other children, Pamela, 11, and Donald Jr., 11, did not become ill. The father is a test pilot for McDonnell Aircraft Corp.

St. Louis News In Brief

LEAD INTOXICATION from inhaling paint fumes did not cause the death of a 5-year-old Florissant boy last April 21, St. Louis county Coroner Raymond I. Harris reported today. Harris said that his pathologist had been unable to determine the cause of death, but extensive tests revealed no lead in the boy's system. The child, Allen W. Smith, was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. Smith, 1128 Spring Valley drive. The coroner's office reported earlier that lead intoxication apparently caused the death.

ST. LOUIS
POST-DISPATCH

April 23, 1963

ST. LOUIS
POST-DISPATCH

May 10, 1963

LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION, INC.

222 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

May 3, 1963

Dr. Raymond I. Harris
St. Louis County Coroner
St. Louis County, Missouri

Dear Dr. Harris:

In the POST-DISPATCH of April 24, 1963, there is an article entitled "Boy's Death Laid to Paint Fumes" in which it is alleged that Allen W. Stuck, five years old, died apparently of lead poisoning from inhaling paint fumes. If such is the fact in the case, it would be the first time in history that such has happened; therefore, I would be most interested in any documentation of the incident.

You may imagine the interest of our industry in situations involving poisoning of children and we are most interested in combating, in whatever way is possible, the unfortunate occurrences of such incidents. If I may be of help in any way, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Thank you for any information that you may be able to send regarding the Stuck case.

Very truly yours,

Don G. Fowler
Don G. Fowler

DGF:nd



Look Ahead with Lead

PERMIT 7-6000



RAYMOND I. HARRIS
CORONER

DEPUTY CORONERS:
WILFRED B. SAEMANN
GROVER W. FIELD
CLARENCE LEE
EVERETT L. NELTON
PATROLMEN:
JOHN P. WYATT, M.B.
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GEO. E. SANTNER, JR., M.B.

Office of Coroner

ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
ONE SOUTH SHREVEPORT BOULEVARD
CLAYTON S. MO.

PRESIDENT
THE MISSOURI STATE
CORONERS ASSOCIATION
VICE-PRESIDENT
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF CORONERS

May 6th, 1963

LETTER TO THE PEOPLE:

This letter is in regard to ALLEN W. STUCK, 5 years old, who expired on April 23rd, 1963, and the cause of whose death is being investigated for the possibility of lead poisoning from paint and/or other causes.

Although we are chagrined by this or any other violent death which brings an untimely end to a person's life, this Office is happy to report that this fatality has not been caused through the use of a common household paint. In fact, there is nothing that I have been able to learn through study and research that would indicate that there is sufficient lead or toxic agent in any interior paint that would lead to a fatality by inhalation. As a matter of fact, further research work by this Office has indicated that some of the deaths so reported in the past several years in other Cities have not been as a direct result of inhalation, but have had other contributing or direct causes.

Very truly yours,

Raymond I. Harris
RAYMOND I. HARRIS
Coroner, St. Louis County, Missouri

RIM:mba

NOTE: Research by this Office did indicate a lead content of 1.74%.

R.I.H.

N 189.03