



Who is Tri-Valley CAREs?

Tri-Valley CAREs (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) located in Livermore, California. It has monitored Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) activities for more than twenty-five years. This work has included active documentation and publication of accidents, releases and exposures to workers. On behalf of the thousands of employees made sick working for our nation's nuclear weapons complex, Tri-Valley CAREs continually advocates for increased worker protections and to enhance and streamline the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA).

For more than 10 years, Tri-Valley CAREs has organized the Sick Worker Support Group for current and former employees of LLNL and other sites who are sick from on the job exposures and are seeking EEOICPA benefits. The group has helped dozens of employees and their families expedite the EEOICPA process, appeal denials of EEOICPA benefits, and receive medical care benefits under the Act.

In the news:

CBS 5 Investigates with Anna Werner

May 17, 2010

A recent incident of toxic exposure at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab raises renewed questions about worker safety. The lab is one of the biggest weapons labs in the country. But activists and some former workers question whether the lab's safety program keeps up with its weapons work. Since 2005 there had been at least five documented Beryllium incidents at the lab, including one where 178 workers were exposed during a construction project. Not only that, a recent survey of all buildings on the campus found 20 are contaminated with Beryllium. They discovered there was another incident just this past February, where a machinist in a "non-beryllium work area" working on a part identified as non-hazardous, noticed "a change in its behavior." The metal he was working on turned out to be Beryllium. So how could that possibly happen with a substance as toxic as Beryllium? Simple, "It was loss of the tag on the part. This is one of those legacy parts that had sat on a shelf, moved around the institution, lost its tag." Something Scott Yundt, of local activist group Tri-Valley CAREs, finds alarming. "It's still clearly a problem if employees are getting exposed. It appears, they have not taken all of the precautions necessary to prevent that from happening," Yundt said. The Department of Energy's Office of the Inspector General is investigating the February incident.

LLNL, SNL & LBNL

Sick Worker Support Group For Nuclear Weapons Workers



Location:

Livermore Public Library
1188 South Livermore Ave.

Organized by:

Tri-Valley CAREs

Contact:

(925) 443-7148

scott@trivalleycares.org

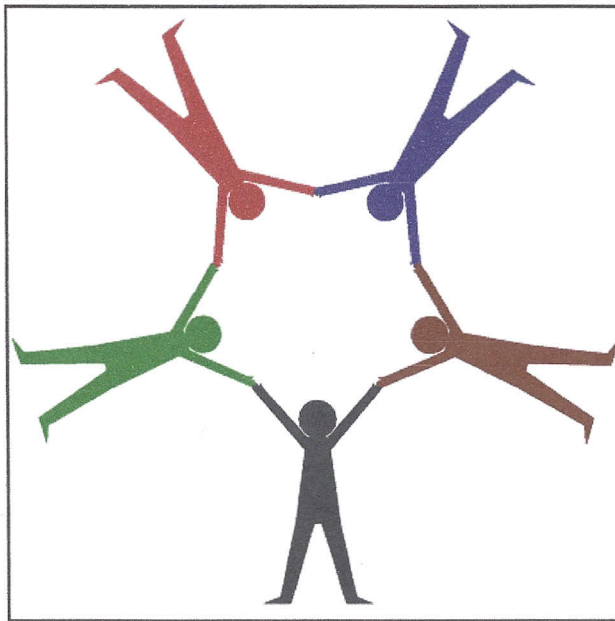
Why Does This Support Group Exist?

Nuclear weapons research, testing, and production have involved unique dangers, including potential catastrophic nuclear accidents and recurring exposures to radioactive substances and toxic materials like beryllium that, even in small amounts, can cause medical harm.

Since the inception of the nuclear weapons program and for the decades that followed, workers at sites of the Department of Energy and at sites of vendors who supplied the Cold War effort were put at risk without their knowledge and consent for reasons that, documents reveal, were driven by fears of adverse publicity, liability, and employee demands for hazardous duty pay.

The EEOICPA was enacted in 2000 to provide compensation and related medical expenses to workers and their qualified survivors made ill through on-the-job exposures.

Unfortunately, the process for receiving compensation is long, confusing, and uses highly questionable methods to determine eligibility. As we work hard to advocate for improvements in the Act, in the interim, the support group can help you navigate the path to compensation and medical benefits.



Should I Join this Support Group?

This support group is for individuals and their families who suffer from an illness that resulted from radiological or chemical exposure at LLNL or other nuclear weapons facilities. These illnesses include cancers, beryllium disease, silicosis, pneumoconiosis, and many others. The support group is also a place to get advice to guide you through the EEOICPA process from advocates and those who have first-hand experience. Sick energy workers deserve all of the benefits and resources available to them and we can ensure that they are informed about their options.

Locating Records and Other Useful Info

Advocates from Tri-Valley CAREs and other members of the support group can direct you to resources to help you locate your personnel and workspace monitoring data and other work-related information, which is essential in developing your compensation claim.

The absence of sufficient records makes dose reconstruction infeasible, which may support the addition of a class to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC). You should also keep careful track of your personal medical records, requesting copies from your medical providers where appropriate.

Requesting Records

- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Contact Will Vensky, Risk and Insurance Manager, at (925) 423-7166 or Cheryl Boyd at (925) 422-9604
- Sandia National Laboratory California
Contact the Health Benefits Group at (925) 294-2131