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Lincoln

University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County  
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April 2005  
Vol. XIX, No. 4

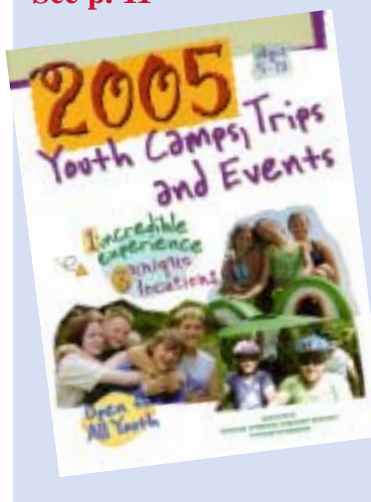
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## 4-H CAMP EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

Save 10% by registering for 4-H Summer Camps or Big Red Academic Camps before April 1!  
See p. 11



# Hallam Tornado Cleanup Included Proper Disposal of Hazardous Waste

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On May 22, 2004, an F4 tornado traveled 52 miles across five counties and reached an unprecedented width of 2-1/2 miles. Several communities, including Hallam, saw homes destroyed, field flooded, downed powerlines and other property damage.

After the tornado, emergency personnel representing federal, state and local agencies were mobilized to assess the damage and take action. Immediate concerns included ensuring the safety of residents, re-establishing communication, securing personal property and managing and eliminating the huge amount of debris. Other agencies, charitable organizations and businesses helped families find temporary housing and meet their immediate needs.

Beth Mann, Household Hazardous Waste Coordinator and other Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) environmental health specialists, spent two weeks after the tornado collecting hazardous materials from damaged homes in Hallam and surrounding areas.

In Hallam, residents and cleanup volunteers were instructed to put hazardous waste on the curb. Environmental health personnel collected waste and brought it to temporary site set up by

LLCHD for sorting and packing hazardous wastes. Because training is required to identify, assess, sort and pack toxic wastes, untrained volunteers could not be used to help.

Due to the fact many containers were damaged or leaking, items normally recycled by citizens such as batteries, used oil, antifreeze and propane tanks were collected for proper disposal. Some waste collected had no label, was in unmarked containers or had damaged labels. LLCHD environmental health specialists performed field tests to determine type of substance so materials could be safely packed.

Types of hazardous waste



Hazardous waste collected after the tornado included banned products containing DDT (left) and a turf fungicide containing mercury (right).

collected in Hallam included PCB's, oxidizing and flammable materials, asbestos, pesticides and five-gallons of mercury. Old pesticides now banned by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), such as DDT and chlordane were also collected. One potentially



Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department environmental health specialists spent two weeks after the tornado collecting hazardous materials in Hallam and surrounding areas.

hazardous item collected was "Cyanogas for Ants."

When the calcium cyanide powder in Cyanogas is exposed to moist air or water, hydrogen cyanide, a deadly poisonous gas is produced. The use registration of this dangerous fumigant was cancelled by the EPA in 1989.

At the end of two weeks, the amount of hazardous waste collected filled a flat-bed semitrailer and was transported to a storage facility in Lincoln. Throughout the summer, staff spent time assessing and collecting additional damaged hazardous materials found in the county as cleanup efforts progressed. By the end of summer, nearly 30,000 pounds of waste had been collected.

This waste was transported to Arkansas by a hazardous waste contractor for disposal for recycling, fuel recovery, incineration or disposal.

## 2005 Hazardous Waste Collections

Each year, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) offer several Household Hazardous Waste Collections.

Don't wait until a disaster to get rid of your household hazardous waste. LLCHD encourages all Lancaster County residents to take a few minutes to inventory what is stored in their basements and garages and bring hazardous items to one of the upcoming collections. This is a good step to eliminate potential risk to their families and the environment.

See page 3 for details.

## 15 Tons of Hazardous Waste Collected After 2004 Tornado

Partial list of the hazardous materials collected by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department during cleanup after the 2004 tornado.

WASTE MATERIAL	AMOUNT COLLECTED
<b>Pesticides</b> (often toxic when concentrated)	<b>12,175 pounds</b>
<b>Flammable solids and liquids</b> (fire hazards)	<b>2,173 pounds</b>
<b>Oxidizing materials</b> (fire and explosive hazards)	<b>705 pounds</b>
<b>Oil-based paint</b>	<b>254 pounds</b>
<b>Sodium hydroxide (lye)</b> (extremely corrosive)	<b>173 pounds</b>
<b>Asbestos</b> (exposure increases lung diseases inc. cancer)	<b>17 pounds</b>
<b>PCB's</b> (stable carcinogen, cause human health problems)	<b>15 pounds</b>
<b>Calcium cyanide</b> (toxic fumigant, when exposed to moist air/water)	<b>4 pounds</b>
<b>Ammonium sulfide</b> (toxic and corrosive)	<b>3 pounds</b>
<b>Mercury</b> (toxic, damages central nervous system, causes birth defects)	<b>5 gallons</b>



After sorting, hazardous waste was packed in large, extra strong boxes with double-wall construction for safe transport.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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