



Battery Recycling Plant Offers Local Residents Free Blood Tests

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In order to check for lead poisoning, an Exide battery recycling plant in petone, is reported to be offering free blood test to the local residents, as it has been facing issues since 2008, which involved an explosion, fire and 2 prosecution for excess lead emission restrictions.

Hutt South MP, Trevor Mallard stated, "Blood tests are a good idea and he would like to see them offered to everyone who has lived or worked near the plant in the past".

He further expressed that the consents should be renewed, owing to the plant having too many accidents and it being too close to the residential area, though the company has reported improvements in its performance and certainty that the blood tests will come out clean.

However, the company intends to renew its resource consents and consultation with the local residents disclosed that there are many major concerns regarding the tendencies of the health impacts of lead exposure.

Lead poisoning is said to have the ability to affect the brain's development, and lead to vomiting, stomach pains, and loss of appetite and, in severe cases, brain damage as well as death.

Moreover, the regular tests of Exide workers, according to reports, had not shown any increased lead level, and the results of the current tests will be sent to the residents and Exide as well as announced at the resource consent hearing.