

Lakes Region Household Hazardous Waste Collection 2009 Annual Report

The 2009 Lakes Region Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collections were conducted in a safe and efficient manner on July 25, 2009 and August 1, 2009 at eight different locations. The event was coordinated by the Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC). 1,569 households participated in this annual collection; overall this represents 4.1% of the households in the twenty-three Lakes Region communities that participated in this year's HHW Collection. The percentage of households participating from individual communities ranged from less than 1% to more than 10%;

Over 19,000 gallons of HHW and nearly 30,000 feet of fluorescent bulbs were disposed of properly. Paint products continue to comprise nearly 50% of our cost of disposal.

This year's survey focused on outreach efforts by NH DES regarding the proper disposal of insecticides, and devices containing mercury (fluorescent tubes, bulbs, TVs, computer screens, and thermostats). When asked about the need for another permanent HHW facility in the region, responses were mixed, with great variation depending on the site. More than 60% of the respondents at the Belmont and Franklin sites felt there was a need for such a facility.

For the second consecutive year an Unwanted Medications Collection was held at the Gilford site in conjunction with the Lakes Region HHW Collection. It was open to all residents and homeowners in the participating Lakes Region communities; 65 households from six different communities participated. The costs associated with this were paid for by the Gilford Police Department and School District with funds from a two-year NH Dept. of Education grant. Next year's collection will be funded by the Gilford Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

The estimated cost per Lakes Region household was \$2.15. The cost to communities for 2010 will remain the same as it was for 2009. The next Household Hazardous Waste Collections will be held July 31, 2010 and August 7, 2010. All residents and property owners in participating communities are encouraged to take this opportunity to safely dispose of your household hazardous products. For more information check with your local coordinator or LRPC (http://www.lakesrpc.org/services_hhw.asp) for details.