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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: David Jeffers/Kimon Koulet  
Lakes Region Planning Commission  
(603) 279-8171

### **Protecting our Region's Drinking Water Supply**

Water pollution may not come to mind when you decide to repaint your kitchen; however, oil-based paints, along with many other products, can contaminate the Lakes Region's water supply if disposed of improperly. Examples of other hazardous products include: most household cleaners, fluorescent bulbs, pool chemicals, and lawn and garden products. Any household product that lists "Danger", "Poison", "Corrosive" or "Toxic" on the label needs to be disposed of at a collection event, such as the collections held in the Lakes Region annually. Items that will NOT be accepted include: latex paints, propane tanks, tires, and alkaline batteries. Check your local transfer station for proper disposal of these items.

This year, twenty-four Lakes Region communities are participating in the annual Lakes Region Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collections program to ensure proper and safe disposal of unwanted hazardous products. On Saturday July 30, 2010 from 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. collections will be held in Belmont, Franklin, Gilford, and Meredith. On Saturday August 6, 2010 from 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. collections will be held in Bristol, Center Ossipee, Laconia, and Moultonborough. Residents and taxpayers of Alexandria, Andover, Belmont, Bridgewater, Bristol, Center Harbor, Effingham, Franklin, Freedom, Gilford, Gilmanton, Hebron, Hill, Holderness, Laconia, Meredith, Moultonborough, New Hampton, Northfield, Ossipee, Sanbornton, Sandwich, Tamworth, and Tilton are eligible and encouraged to bring their hazardous waste products to the participating facility that is most convenient. Please note: to be assured of disposal, do not wait to come at the last minute; in the rare case that a site fills up or exceeds its budget, the gates may be closed before noon.

When bringing hazardous material to the collection facilities, please be advised that the quantity of hazardous waste accepted from each household is limited to ten gallons or fifty pounds. Products should be kept in their original containers with all the lids tightly secured. If there is a leak in the container, place it in a larger container and add an absorbent substance such as cat litter or paint hardener (available at your local hardware store). To ensure safe transport, products should be placed in a cardboard box in the trunk. This will also ensure a quick drop-off upon arrival.

If heading to Laconia's Public Works Garage for drop-off, check out their Swap Table. Here, residents can drop off containers, have them verified by a certified chemist, and then pick up an item that can be used in their home. This is a great way of using up hazardous products and diverting them from the waste stream.

This annual collection process was initiated by the Lakes Region Planning Commission twenty-four years ago. In the past three years, more than 60,000 gallons of hazardous waste were collected from Lakes Region residents. Additionally, 17.5 miles of fluorescent bulbs and more than 1,500 compact fluorescent bulbs were collected.

For a more comprehensive list of acceptable and non-acceptable items as well as maps of the collection sites please visit: [http://www.lakesrpc.org/services\\_hhw.asp](http://www.lakesrpc.org/services_hhw.asp). If you have further questions, call the Lakes Region Planning Commission office at 279-8171.