

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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KENNY C. GUINN, *Governor*

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NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

TONOPAH MERCURY COLLECTION EVENT AND THERMOMETER EXCHANGE

Keep mercury away from kids with safe disposal

CARSON CITY— Nye County Public Works Department and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection will provide a free opportunity to properly dispose of household mercury from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fri., Mar. 18 at the Nye County Road Department Office at 377 North Jackson Street in Tonopah.

Residents of Tonopah may dispose of their mercury thermometers, thermostats and other household mercury items for free. Thermometers and all other residential mercury containing devices will be accepted except for mercury vapor or HID lamps and mercury light bulbs including fluorescent tubes. In addition to disposing of mercury waste, old mercury-containing fever thermometers can be exchanged for a new oral, fever thermometer while supplies last. Mercury items must be sealed in a plastic zip-lock bag or in a clear jar with a lid. Disposal is limited to residential sources and excludes waste from commercial business.

The Nye County Public Works Department and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection provided funding for this event. For event information, contact Nye County Public Works at 775-751-5691. For recycling information contact the Nevada Recycling Hotline at 1-800-597-5865.

WHO: Nye County Public Works Department 775-751-5691

WHAT: Mercury collection event and mercury thermometer exchange

WHERE: 377 North Jackson Street at the Nye County Road Department Office in Tonopah

WHEN: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, March 18, 2005

WHY: Following events in 2004 involving unintentional releases of mercury in the Pau Wa Lu Middle School in Douglas County and a Las Vegas home, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection developed a plan to help fund the removal of unwanted mercury from residential areas. Elemental mercury, the substance found in a thermometer, is a hazardous chemical that can cause serious health problems and environmental damage if not handled properly. It's also illegal to improperly release or dispose of mercury. NDEP seeks to remove mercury from residential sources and safely dispose of mercury containing devices.

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