

# Health & Safety

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## Free OSHA On-Site Consultation for CAP Sites

Primarily for smaller businesses, no-cost, confidential consultations help employers identify and address hazards and establish or improve safety and health programs. Services are provided by consultants from state agencies or universities. The On-Site Consultation program operates separately from OSHA enforcement.

- › Assess collection-based contaminant and storage hazards.
- › Resources to develop a comprehensive safety and health management system.

The consultants can help small businesses reduce accidents and related costs. They can:

- › Identify hazards, including in exhibit creation and collections care.
- › Provide recommendations to control and eliminate hazards.
- › Perform noise and air sampling.
- › Conduct training.
- › Review programs, including emergency action plans.

Learn how the Kodiak History Museum benefitted from their on-site visit in this [Success Story](#) provided by Gina Agron, Health Consultant, Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Consultation and Training, Margaret Gruetert, Chief Curator, Kodiak History Museum, and Amanda Lancaster, Curator of Collections, Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository.

For more information and a testimonial from collections care staff at the Springfield Illinois Art Association, watch a recording of the [National Heritage Responders \(NHR\) OSHA On-Site Consultation webinar](#).

The state consultation programs that are currently focusing on cultural heritage sites include: Alaska, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, and Washington. However, you can request a consultation visit in any state.

To book a no-cost consultation, visit: <https://www.osha.gov/consultation>.

—Nancy Nash, U.S. Department of Labor, OSHA Regional Office, Chicago IL,  
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## Lead Transfer Risk from Handling Ceramics with Deteriorated Lead Glazes

Ubiquitous in museum collections, lead glazed ceramics are often thought to be inert but are usually handled like other stable collection items; with bare skin or hands covered by cotton or nitrile gloves. However, deteriorated lead glazes may become pitted and/or powdery, increasing the risk of exposure to lead during handling. The hazards associated with handling museum objects with an integral lead component, such as lead-glazed ceramics, are not widely understood or acknowledged.

### The Dangers of Lead

Lead is considered one of the most toxic heavy metals because it accumulates in the body and causes many severe and irreversible health effects. Long-term exposure can result in memory and attention problems, weakness, anemia, and kidney damage. Exposure to high levels of lead can cause severe damage to the brain and kidneys, and even death. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) as of this past year, there is no level of lead exposure that is considered acceptable or safe; all levels of lead exposure cause harmful effects.