

Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioners

Exercise #5 – Practice Visual Assessment

Instructions: *The purpose of this exercise is to familiarize you with a common visual assessment tool and help you understand its strengths and weaknesses so you may better evaluate the tools that will fit your program.*

Step 1: *Take the packet from the References section of the binder labeled “CEHRC Visual Survey” instructions. Look through the instructions. The trainer will review key elements of the instructions and then show you a series of photos. Based on the photos complete the visual assessment form. You do not need to complete the floor plan or site plan.*

Step 2 *Identify three strengths and three weaknesses of the CEHRC Visual Survey.*

About the Packet:

Healthy homes programs have developed many tools to conduct a visual assessment for healthy homes issues. Most of the healthy homes visual assessments are tailored to the particular needs of the program. Many community-based organizations used the CEHRC Visual Survey developed by the Alliance for Healthy Homes. CEHRC is a program of the Alliance. It stands for the Community Environmental Health Resource Center. The materials are available at www.cehrc.org or follow the link from www.afhh.org.

The Visual Survey is the first step in the CEHRC hazard assessment process. The Visual Survey gives hazard investigators an initial opportunity to talk to residents about things they have noticed about their home. Looking around the outside and inside of the home, Hazard investigators can begin to understand the general condition of the home, and target sampling as appropriate. Some hazards will only be assessed through the Visual Survey as visual evidence of a hazard might be sufficient to trigger control measures or other action. Others require more sampling to quantify the particular hazard.

The CEHRC's Visual Survey consists of:

- Instructions;
- Visual Survey Report;
- Floor Plan; and
- Site Plan.

The materials are available in Spanish and English.

For this exercise, we will use the Visual Survey Report.

For “Deteriorated Paint” and “Water Damage”, use the following codes instead of checkmarks.

- L Low – less than 2 square feet
 - M Medium – between 2 and 10 square feet
 - H High – 10 square feet or more
 - E Extreme – structural damage caused by this problem
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Visual Survey Report

Resident: _____
 Alternate Contact: _____
 Address: _____
 Unit # _____ Unique ID _____
 Resident Phone: _____

Visual Conducted by: _____
 Date: _____

Make a checkmark (✓) if the problem appears in the room or area. For deteriorated paint and water damage, indicate the extent of the problem (see instructions) Use the extra rows to identify any other hazards you notice. Put an asterisk (*) above any room(s) where a child sleeps or plays. Circle (○) where you photograph a problem.

ROOM OR AREA

PROBLEM		Exterior	Porch	Entryway	Living Room	Dining Room	Kitchen	Bed room 1	Bed room 2	Bed room 3	Bath room 1	Bath room 2	Basement		
Deteriorated paint	Walls														
	Windows, door, or trim														
	Paint chips on floor														
Soil with no grass or mulch															
Cockroaches															
Rodents															
Holes in wall															
Mold/ Mildew	Obvious source of moisture														
	No obvious source of moisture														
Water Damage: walls w/ water stained															
Strong musty smell															
Natural gas/sewer gas smell															
Unvented gas oven/dryer/heater															
Worn-out carpeting															
Other:															
Other:															
Other:															
Other:															
Other:															

If renting, received lead hazard disclosure information from landlord? Yes No

Follow-up visit scheduled for: Date _____ Time: _____

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Step 2: Evaluate CEHRC Visual Survey

Three Strengths:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Three Weaknesses:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.