

MISSION STATEMENT

To protect and promote the public's health by ensuring a sanitary, safe, and healthy environment.

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Louisville Skyline During August Floods

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Message to our Readers

The RS Committee provides representation, recognition, and education to our 1000 members. This newsletter is an effort to continue our support and services to our members. We want to ensure that we are viewed as credible and responsible public health leaders.

What's in a Name: What Should We Call Ourselves

Ask someone outside our profession what a sanitarian does. We all have heard answers like someone who works with garbage, water, and sewage. The AOL dictionary defines it as a specialist in sanitary science and public health with the word evolving around 1859. So our professional title is 150 years old and we still don't have name recognition. Our situation is no different than ones that have been dealt with by other professions. Stewardesses changed their name to flight attendants. Insurance sales people became financial planners. Refuse collectors changed to sanitation workers. In all these examples the name change was initiated for the purpose of achieving greater clarity and respect for the professions involved. Maybe its time for us to let go of our outdated title and find one that would help give us the pay and respect that we deserve. We need identity with the public that we serve. Here are just some of the titles being used today: Registered Sanitarian, Registered Environmental Health Specialists, Registered Environmental Sanitarian, Registered Environmental Health Professional, Environmental Health Practitioner, Environmental Specialists, Professional Sanitarian, Environmental Health Officer, Health Protection Officer. The list goes on depending on what state or country you ask about what they call their sanitarians.

We could strengthen our public support and recognition by having a unified profession supporting a uniform title or name. This will be a difficult challenge because the term sanitarian is embedded in many state laws and regulations. I don't know what we should call ourselves but maybe we should be thinking about letting go of the word sanitarian in our title.

As always your thoughts, opinions, and viewpoints are important to your Registered Sanitarian Examining Committee.

Roy Foushee, RS
RS Committee Chair

New environmentalist,
Shae Rogers and fellow
co-workers
Retail Food Seminar 2009



Is Shae an
RS, REHS, or
EHS???

Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Act

2009 a Model Year for Kentucky

Kentucky Division of Public Health Protection and Safety embarked on a Federal Journey to improve the safety of all public pools. Stemming from the passage of the Virginia Graeme Baker (VGB) Pool and Spa Act, Kentucky State and Local Health officials set a course in early 2009 to develop a plan to best meet the requirements of the federal law regarding pool entrapment/safety. We developed a plan to focus on the highest risk pools such as the children's pools and spas (Level I) first and then focus on the level II (standard public pools) pools as soon as possible and as time and resources allowed. We worked with the attorney generals of-fice to work through the process and identify the pools in need of further compliance. The At-torney General's office agreed to help take enforcement actions for additional leverage to compliance.

At the end of the season, we had the vast majority of pools in compliance with the federal law, and no-tices issued to those in non compliance. Guy Delius, Di-rector of the Division of Public Health Protection and Safety said *"We're not done yet, but it was very pleasing to see the good work of our public safety and environmental manage-ment branches and so many local health departments and staff. Additionally, the level of cooperation among the agencies including the Attorney Generals office was exciting, and at the end of the day, it was warming to know our pools are in many ways safer now for our citizens, then in years past."*



This beautiful water spout is not a scene from a VGB compliant pool but rather footage from the not so beautiful floods in Jefferson county, August 2009

Hats off to all those who helped statewide make this positive difference for Kentucky public pools.

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services' Department for Public Health Issues
Public Service Award to several Kentucky Dairies for service during disasters.

During the 2009 Kentucky State Fair, at the Dairy Awards Banquet sponsored by the Dairy Products Association of Kentucky and the Kentucky Dairy Development Council, the Kentucky Department of Public Health presented a Service Award to several deserving Dairy Industry groups.

Lewis Ramsey, Manager of the Milk Safety Branch, said "he appreciates the professional working relationship that exists between the Dairy and Regulatory Industries. The amount of cooperation between these groups allow for more wholesome and healthier products to be offered to our consumers."

This is the first year that the awards have been presented. "During times of critical need, several milk processing facilities across the State volunteered to bottle pasteurized water for citizens in communities affected by the disasters. Guy Delius, Director of the Division for Public Health, Protection, and Safety said, "We are truly thankful to our dairy plants for bottling and donating water for persons affected by floods, ice storms, hurricane winds from Ike and other emergency situations." The water these folks bottled truly helped meet a real need during these trying times Kentucky".

The first of its kind award presented by the Kentucky Department of Public Health was entitled the "Public Service Award". This was presented to the processing plants for aiding the citizens of the Commonwealth in their times of need. The recipients were as follows: Blue-grass Dairy and Food, LLC, Flav-O-Rich Dairy, Louis Trauth Dairy, Southern Belle Dairy, Turner Dairy, Winchester Farms Dairy. DPH Commissioner William Hacker, M.D., *emphasized that in times of need this is what makes Kentucky stand out.*



Jefferson County Floods August 2009

Record-breaking rains fell in Jefferson County, Kentucky on August 4th, as strong thunderstorms occurred, flash floods swamped vast areas of downtown and neighborhoods to the west and south. Rain gauges show that as much as 6.5 inches of rain fell in one period lasting 75 minutes from 7:45am to 9:00am EDT, reaching as high as 7.4 inches at the McAlpine River Dam on the Ohio River.

Nearly 200 people were rescued by emergency workers from the tops of cars and houses. Over fifty people were rescued by boat from a University of Louisville administrative office building. Two children were pulled from a swollen creek when neighbors saw them get swept away as they walked too close to the stream. Water was reported up to several feet deep in parts of Louisville, fortunately there were no fatalities. Cars were submerged in a downtown parking lot. Major flooding affected Churchill Downs and surrounding neighborhoods. Interstates 65 and 264 were closed. Floodwaters poured into homes and engulfed Louisville's main public library downtown, several area hospitals, horse barns at Churchill Downs, and the University of Louisville campus.

Thousands of books were destroyed at the library and the university suffered more than \$13 million in damage throughout 13 buildings.

Storms also caused nearly 1 billion gallons of bacteria-laden sewage to spew from manholes, flooding streets and yards, and to pour into Beargrass Creek and the Ohio River. Power outages peaked at about 25,000.

About 550 dogs and cats displaced from Louisville's flooded animal shelter were relocated to temporary housing at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center. Officials said 11 animals died when the shelter flooded.

The rain overwhelmed Metropolitan Sewer District's



This person is a real trooper. If he isn't an Environmentalist, we need him! ...Kentucky Environmentalists are everywhere!

Public Health, even today, continues to be the least understood profession in the health sector., we are the silent profession. We need to do our best to help both the public and private agencies understand our role as environmentalist in the health arena.

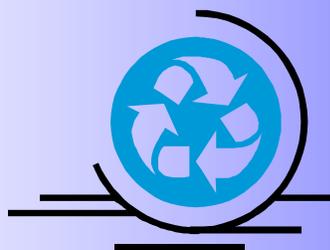
(MSD) aged sewer system, which is undergoing an \$850 million renovation under a settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. But even the already upgraded Morris Forman Wastewater Treatment Plant in western Louisville could not keep up. By 5 p.m., more than 300 customers had reported sewage backups. During the peak of the morning storm, it ran at maximum capacity — a rate of about 360 million gallons per day. But more than twice that rate was allowed to overflow untreated into the Ohio River. People were advised to avoid contact with the polluted water and not to fish, wade or swim in local waterways.

Thousands of homes were flooded, which led to a disaster declaration by President Barack Obama — Jefferson County's third in less than a year. The National Guard was doing door to door assessments in the hardest hit area, which encompassed about a 23 block radius surrounding the University of Louisville.

As of September 21st, approximately 1,800 tons of debris from the flood has been collected, adding to the amount of debris from the city's other two recent natural disasters; 17,000 tons from the September 2008 windstorm and 34,900 tons from January's ice storm.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has since provided residents with \$13.9 million in grants for things such as home repairs, temporary rental assistance, storage and medical expenses. Over 11,400 people registered with FEMA for assistance.

Article submitted by Connie Mendel, Environmental Health Administrator for the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health & Wellness.



Camp Horsin' Around Set To Open In Boyle County

As of July 29, 2009, the Boyle County Health Department has permitted a new Youth Camp in the Perryville area of the county. On the surface this sounds like a pretty standard function any Health Department would conduct, but this camp is somewhat special. Not only does the camp adjoin the property of country music singer Eddie Montgomery (of Montgomery-Gentry), which for many would be noteworthy enough, but the camp has an additional element of interest in the form of a special cause, that Montgomery himself is a champion of.

Camp Horsin' Around was founded by five Lexington residents who were inspired by Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Gang Camps. Camp Horsin' Around is a camp facility specifically designed and equipped to enrich the lives of children with serious illnesses and physical difficulties.



In mid-2002, a non-profit organization, recruited a board of directors, began seeking donations and started looking for land. The result is a 191-acre property located in Boyle and Mercer Counties that will provide permanent facilities necessary for the children, including a fully equipped clinic area, dining hall, cabins and activity areas (such as a pool and horse stables). The camp will also offer a family camping center, as well as support services for families and special camp sessions for siblings of the campers.

The facility will be available for groups that have organized camp programs. Numerous groups have expressed interest in utilizing the camp including Indian Summer Camp (for children with cancer), Hospice of the Bluegrass which plans to use the facility for children who have lost family members to terminal illnesses and a program for obese children. The hope is that Camp Horsin' Around can become a destination for children from Kentucky, surrounding states and beyond. The camp directors want organized camp programs to bring their children along with their volunteers, physicians and nurses and call them their "camp home".

With the above being said, it's obvious that Camp Horsin' Around is a worthy cause, but it is also a huge challenge for the Health Department. The original proposal for the camp was 10 cottages, a dining hall with full kitchen, two counselor buildings, an office, and a clinic building, with an estimated total daily waste flow of 15,500 gallons per day.



That original plan began to change rapidly after the onsite evaluations were conducted. Although the Perryville area of the county is mostly undeveloped, picturesque rolling farmland, it is not exactly known for producing great site evaluation results. The Camp Horsin' Around site was no exception, with uneven topography, shallow and surface rock and heavy clay soils, all found in abundance.

After wading through numerous plans and much discussion the camp directors elected to scale back from the original plan and construct three cottages, the medical center, office and pavilion for phase one. Currently all the food service activities are going to be catered and the swimming pool is scheduled to be constructed next summer.

The final decision was made by camp officials and proposed to the Health Department to construct three separate onsite sewage disposal systems. System one, was constructed for cottage 1 and the clinic, with an estimated total daily waste flow of 1,150 gallons per day, with an area of constructed fill for 854' of 30" Leaching Chamber Lateral Line. Cottages 2 and 3 will have two separate systems for 650gpd total daily waste flow and a 483' of 30" leaching chamber lateral each.



Jason Stevens
Boyle County Health Department, helping open Camp Horsin' Around Open

You can imagine the expense of doing a "fill and wait" scenario for this type of endeavor, but also think of the vast amount of topsoil required. It was incredible, but that is the route they choose utilize. The three mounds are currently in place and are nearing the one year settling time.

The 2009 Retail Food Seminar Has Largest Attendance to Date

The Division of Public Health Protection and Safety, Food Safety Branch, Retail Food Seminar, was attended by more environmentalists, industry representatives, and food specialists than any time in past history. The first day drew the most, 193 attendees, due to the interest in learning of the changes coming with the amendment of the food code. Days two and three saw attendance of 153 persons listening and learning from a variety of speakers. The committee works very hard to put this seminar together and we owe them a round of applause!

The KY Food Code, 902 KAR 45:005, was amended in May of 2009 to become effective May 2010. The new code will incorporate by reference the 2005 FDA Food Code with minimal changes. This effort was years in the making and took compromise and cooperation from local health departments, industry, the KY Restaurant Association, the KY Retail Federation, the KY Grocer's Association, representatives from the food safety branch worked eight months drafting, editing and filing the new amended code.

The Food Safety Branch was the proud recipient of an award of appreciation from the Registered Sanitarian committee for their successful modernization of the food code. The Branch thanks everyone who has been involved in the process to modernize the code and the acknowledgement of that success from the committee.



Environmental Quality Assurance Program:

In every successful organization, there is a mechanism to insure quality performance and identify areas where improvement is possible. The Environmental Quality Assurance Program serves as this mechanism for the Division for Public Health Protection and Safety. The Quality Assurance Team works to assure strict adherence to program standards and state law along with consistent and accurate documentation of services and activities provided by Environmental Health professionals throughout the state. The team is comprised of Justin Carey, Program Administrator; Eddie Seay, Program Specialist (located in the Purchase District Health Department); and Jessica Isaac, Environmental Health Inspector.

In the second year of this program's existence, great progress has been made towards creating an informative and productive process of monitoring Environmental Health activities throughout the state and creating a consistent method of sharing new information and programs with local partners. With its primary goal of assuring consistent guidance and oversight of the environmental health programs administered in 56 local and district health departments, the QA program and process has evolved to also include a training and reporting mechanism that has proven valuable to both PHPS and local health department staffs. Currently, the review process provides the

opportunity to both educate and empower the local health department Environmental Health staff and leadership to better understand, monitor and streamline the administration of environmental programs. The process, consisting of both off site review of various data reports along with face to face meetings with LHD staff seems to have been welcomed by much of the state. The reviews and discussion that stems from them help to assure that environmental programs are administered consistently and in accordance with program standards. In addition, the program has helped to establish guidelines for accountability and expectations in Environmental Health programs and employees. The reports generated from the QA reviews provide a summary of findings for local health department leadership, local boards of health and PHPS management to evaluate in hopes of improving the quality and service of environmental programs across the state. Since the inception of the QA program 21 of the state's 56 Local and District Health Department's have received Environmental Quality Assurance Re-



Screened in sitting area at Camp Horsin' Around