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Colorado Environmental Health Association

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Planning for West Nile's Return Underway

Editor's note: The following is an executive summary of notes assembled by John Pape from the 4th Annual National West Nile Virus Conference.

By John Pape

That West Nile virus (WNV) will return is assured. Since its arrival in New York City in 1999, New York experienced WNV activity for the fourth straight year. The unanswered questions are where will WNV appear in Colorado and how intense will this year's transmission season be.

The 2002 WNV outbreak was the largest mosquito-borne disease outbreak ever recorded in the U.S. As of Feb. 28, the following national numbers were reported: humans: 4071 cases with 274 fatalities; birds: 16,455 positive birds (53 % crows); veterinary: 12,752 positive animals (1 feline, 7 canines, 21 other species); remainder equine mosquitoes: 6,398 positive mosquito pools from 29 species. Colorado recorded 13 human cases (0 fatal), 380 horses (95 fatal), 1 sheep, 1 cat, 138 dead birds, 3 sentinel chickens and 15 mosquito pools (*C. tarsalis* and *C. pipiens*).

Of particular concern this year was new information on WNV and human health. Several new modes of human transmission were reported in 2002 including occupational exposure of lab workers handling dead birds, blood transfusions, organ transplantation, transplacentally and via breast milk. The strain of WNV circulating in the U.S. is highly virulent and neuroinvasive compared to other strains. Neurological involvement was more common than previously realized ranging from intermittent muscle tremors and fasciculations in persons with otherwise mild illness to a polio-like flaccid paralysis that may be permanent.

The 2002 WNV outbreak closely followed the pattern of the 1975 outbreak of St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLE). Areas in Colorado with historic evidence of SLE transmission include the eastern plains, Front Range, San Luis and Grand Valleys. Historical surveillance data is limited for other areas of the state. Outbreaks in a region were very focal, appeared suddenly and spread rapidly. This was observed in Colorado in 2002 and should be the expected pattern in 2003. Within a county there may be localized "hotspots" of significant WNV transmission while limited activity is observed only a few miles away.

Dead bird surveillance, including mapping dead bird reports and testing members of the crow family, was the most sensitive, cost-effective early detection system. Sentinel chickens

also worked well in areas that used them. Mapping of surveillance data was extremely useful in determining "hotspots" within an area and directing control efforts. The state's surveillance plan for this year will reflect these findings.

Colorado's primary vector mosquito, *Culex tarsalis*, proved to be a highly efficient vector of WNV. *C. tarsalis* readily feeds on mammals including humans. Many states noted transmission even in areas where mosquito populations were low.

Mosquito larvicide control is efficient, cost-effective, environmentally friendly, and generally accepted by the public. Conversely, adulticide control (spraying) was controversial and resulted in lawsuits in several areas. In Colorado, mosquito control activities should focus on larviciding. If not already part of an existing, integrated mosquito abatement program, adulticiding should only be undertaken for emergency outbreak situations and must be accompanied by considerable public education and input.

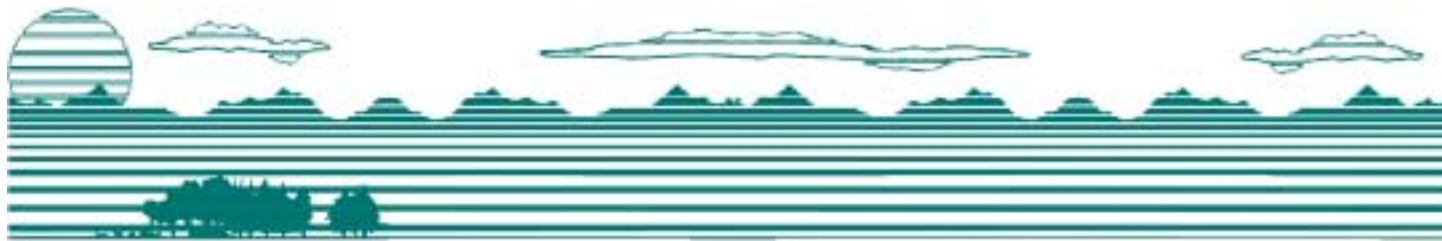
Effective public education is essential and should be targeted to groups at high risk of serious disease or death (persons greater than 50 years old and pregnant women). WNV prevention education will be the theme of Public Health Week with the slogan "Fight the Bite Colorado". A comprehensive education program will be conducted throughout the season beginning April 7.

Based on information from the conference, Colorado's surveillance and prevention recommendations are being finalized and will be sent out soon. It could be a very busy summer.

John Pape is an epidemiologist with the Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

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LETTER FROM THE CEHA PRESIDENT

Budget Crisis Requires EH Professionals to Become 'Marketers'

It's obviously no surprise that Environmental/Public Health is experiencing some wearisome times. In fact, several of our local health departments are experiencing the largest budget shortfall in their 30 to 40 year existence. Several local health departments and the state health department are pressed to make difficult cuts in specific programs. Ultimately, these cuts could lead and may have already led to staff layoffs.

It truly saddens me to see any Environmental Health program reduced or eliminated. I believe that Environmental Health is a complex profession, directly influenced by a great number of variables. Reducing or eliminating any program or variable could drastically impact the mission of Environmental Health. What is our Mission? Joseph A. Salvato states in his popular book Environmental Engineering and Sanitation, that Environmental Health is "The systematic development, promotion, and conduct of measures which modify or otherwise control those external factors in the indoor and outdoor environment which might cause illness, disability or discomfort through interaction with the human system." Mr. Salvato further goes on to say "The prevention of disease and the achievement of a better quality of life requires competent implementation of Environmental Health programs."

I believe the Environmental Health mission is to reduce, control, or eliminate human illness and discomfort transmitted through environmental conditions. In effect, reducing or eliminating any Environmental Health program could subsequently lessen the quality of life! With the economy looking bleak and more cuts possible, we are challenged to deal with these cuts while maintaining the Environmental Health mission at the highest possible degree.

I'm an optimist and I do believe that good will prevail out of this trying time. Environmental Health professionals will be forced to reevaluate and prioritize programs, more than ever, for the specific population they serve. I believe the Environmental Health professional must become the ultimate "marketer," effectively "selling" Environmental Health to the public he or she serves with fewer resources than ever. The Environmental Health professional will be forced to spend less time in a restaurant, school, camp or child care center, inspecting a septic system, potable water system or pool, reviewing plans, inspecting air quality issues, responding to hazardous waste spills, investigating

zoonotic diseases, all the while providing the same level of professional service.

The Environmental Health professional must convince the public he or she serves that the practice at question is critical to public health. More than ever the Environmental Health professional will have to implement marketing tactics in convincing the public of the benefits of complying with a request. This will force the Environmental Health professional to reevaluate and prioritize critical versus non-critical issues.

In order to address the challenge of maintaining the Environmental Health mission with limited resources, it is important to stay abreast of current technologies and Environmental Health advancements. Continuing education is the most effective method of achieving this goal. Educational conferences and seminars allow Environmental Health professionals the opportunity to gather simultaneously to pool resources and information.

Your CEHA Board of Directors realizes the impact of the budget cuts and is exploring all avenues to maintain the highest educational opportunities at the lowest possible price. The board is exploring possible grants and partnerships with other associations to keep the registration cost down for the 36th Annual Educational Conference in Steamboat Springs, September 24-26, 2003.

I believe the Environmental Health professional must continue to attend educational workshops even when budgets are tight. The Environmental Health professional needs to be au courant on Environmental Health issues in order to be an effective and credible "marketer".

As always, if you have suggestions or would like to get involved in any way, please feel free to email or call one of the board members listed on the back of this newsletter. The next Board of Directors meeting is set for April 10, 9:00 a.m. at Colorado State University. Educational updates and a listing of the committee chairs are available on the website, www.cephaweb.com.

Kindest Regards,

Thomas R. Gonzales
President, CEHA
tgonzales@cephaweb.com



Origins at the Ivory Cellar Kenneth Blehm, Colorado State University

Program Cuts Beg Question: 'Mission Creep' or 'Mission Critical'?

The recent challenges in the State of Colorado public funding climate have been a particularly 'unfavorite' time of my administrative life. Literally, eliminating programs and personnel that support them, in areas that you once held to be part of your mission, feels a lot like having to cut off a finger to escape the snare. Yet, as I fret and ponder over the need to do this, I cannot help but wonder if we should have done this sooner? Were we in the snare all along and were just too complacent to recognize the trap because it looked like 'home'?

I have seen departments of health and environment literally eliminate programs that have existed for years as planks within the platform of the agency mission. The university, too, has had to stop or abandon programs and initiatives along with the personnel attached to them as we attempted to answer two basic questions:

1. What is our core mission and what are the objectives that must be achieved to execute that mission?
2. Is the activity under scrutiny essential to an objective or is it just something that is 'nice' or 'convenient' to do?

This painful questioning has caused the university to critically look at every aspect of our operations. We have examined mission statements, current activities, assessment of outcomes, and value gained for resources invested. What we have found in some cases is an overlap of function, authority or responsibility. Why were two offices doing this partial overlap in the first place?

What we have found elsewhere is our ability to speak to desired endpoints without any objective means of measuring our progress toward those endpoints. Why could we not objectively argue for these programs, if they were important, but instead chose to eliminate them?

What we have found, too often, was a bit of 'creep' where what we were doing was not clearly and demonstrably within our mission. Neither was it clearly someone else's mission, and yet, it was still consuming staff, resources and facilities. Did we do it because we always had and had we forgot the why of the activity? Did the why ever really exist?

Why did we allow ourselves to get into this situation? If we can effectively live without a food inspection program, why were we doing it in the first place? If we can effectively live without a K-9 outreach effort, why were we doing it in the first place? Was it bad judgment, mission creep, inability to visualize other alternatives, fear of moving in new directions, or just inertia of the bureaucracy? Wish I knew the answer in each and every situation.


As we try to retract resource commitments from those areas that are critically judged to not be essential while directing resources to areas that are (yes, we are growing in some areas even now – when that area is clearly our mission and can be measured and progress demonstrated), we begin to understand that maybe, just maybe, we got a bit sloppy about use of resources and allowed them to be used in ways that did not meet our criteria (Is it our mission? Is the activity critical to mission?).

This is a painful time to understand that maybe we allowed small things to proliferate until they consumed too much of the resource base we needed to get our mission critical tasks done. We perhaps allowed ourselves to sustain 'mission creep' through such things as entrepreneurial spirit and the desire to meet our goals. While these things are not bad in and of themselves, we must understand that never again can we undertake new items without the careful scrutiny that we failed to apply in the past (Mission? Critical to mission?).

Maybe then one day we can reach a new level of administrative awareness and capability where we do not have to 'lop' off limbs to save the plant. Or maybe we will continue to demonstrate, as populations of plants and animals have throughout history, that we expand to the limit and beyond of our resources and then we must have famine or pestilence to return us to a sustainable level.

Kind of makes you wonder if we have really evolved beyond our forefathers that tossed the garbage in the street, that attracted the rats, that carried the fleas, that contained the plague that devastated . . . Anyone remember the song "In the Year 2525"?

As always, I welcome your comments or feedback at Ken.Blehm@colostate.edu.

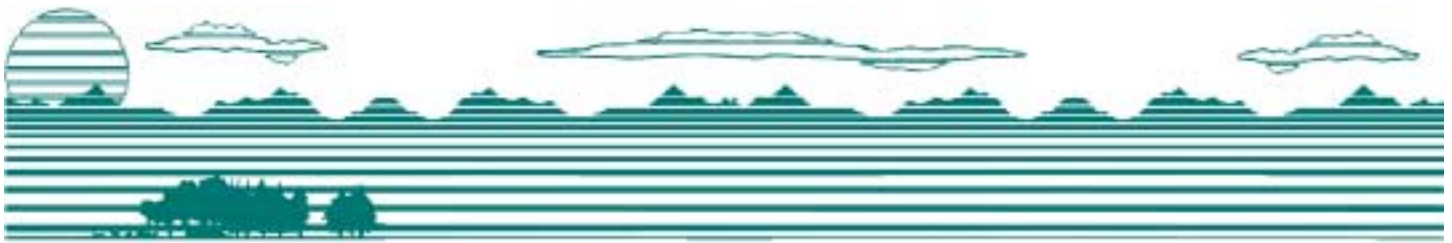


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Immunizations Given After Hepatitis A Confirmed in Food Worker

By Laura Dippold

On Monday, Dec. 30, 2002, a laboratory confirmed hepatitis A case was reported to Tri-County Health Department (TCHD). Hepatitis A is a virus that is shed in the stool and can be passed on to others when an infected person does not properly wash their hands after using the bathroom, and then touches "ready-to-eat" food or objects that others will put in their mouth. Symptoms appear two to six weeks (usually 3-4 weeks) after exposure. A person with hepatitis A can be infectious and spread the virus to others from two weeks before symptoms appear and until one week after.

TCHD disease control staff interviewed the ill person, who reported having symptoms of headache, abdominal pain, dark brown urine, loss of appetite, fever, nausea, vomiting and jaundice; the onset date of jaundice was Dec. 23. The patient was most likely exposed to the virus while traveling in Mexico a month prior to illness. The interview revealed that the infected person was an employee of a Taco Bell restaurant in Adams County and worked mostly as a "stuffer" and "finisher," which involved frequent and direct hand contact with ready-to-eat foods such as lettuce, tomato, onions and cheese. An environmental investigation of the Taco Bell restaurant revealed deficiencies in hand washing practices and hand washing facilities. The ill person handled food at the restaurant on nine days during the 21-day infectious period, specifically on Dec. 10 and Dec. 13-20. TCHD immediately issued a glove order to the Taco Bell restaurant and required that they fix the deficiencies in hand washing practices and facilities immediately.

A news release was issued on Dec. 31 to notify the public about the possible exposure to hepatitis A at the Taco Bell. Customers were advised to get an immune globulin (IG) shot to prevent illness if they ate at this location on Dec. 19 or 20. IG shots were not recommended for customers who ate food prior to these dates because IG is ineffective beyond the 14th day after exposure. TCHD provided a clinic for Taco Bell customers to receive IG on Jan. 2-3. IG was administered to 693 customers. In addition, 22 Taco Bell employees received IG. A hepatitis A health advisory was also sent out to health care providers and licensed food service establishments in the Tri-County area.

Tri-County Health Department monitored the Taco Bell restaurant over the next six weeks to assess the health status of employees, hand washing practices, hand washing facilities and proper glove usage. There were no deficiencies noted during this time. There were also no additional ill employees at the Taco Bell restaurant and no additional reported cases of hepatitis A associated with the Taco Bell in the community by the end of the 50-day incubation period for possible associated cases.

Laura Dippold is a Disease Control Specialist with the Tri-County Health Department.

Environmental Issues on Minds of Legislators at State Capitol

By Jim Dale

Things are very busy up at the capitol because our legislators are trying to figure out how to slash another \$800 million plus from this year's budget so they can go on to figure out how to build an even smaller budget for next fiscal year. TABOR, the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights, has really created an untenable position for funding of many programs this year and in the out years. But . . . more on TABOR at another time.

Bills of interest to many in environmental health include the following:

- A large number of water bills: I think you can best try to keep up with these by reading the major newspapers around the state.

- A meth lab bill: If passed, this bill will direct the state Board of Health to develop clean-up guidelines for properties and notes that counties may implement the bill/law requiring buildings to be cleaned up and who (the property owner) will be required to pay for the clean-up. The bill will provide locals with another tool to deal with this problem.

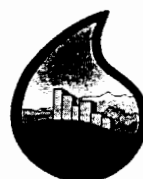
- Posting of retail food facility inspections: this bill was recently introduced and opinions on it are just now being formed. Posting of inspections and ratings is a not uncommon practice in some states and cities.

- Increasing retail food license fees: CCI is working with legislators to submit what is called a late bill to provide for an increase in these fees. Once the bill is introduced, I will get out the word so we can advocate for this important bill.

Of course there are other bills and other issues out there but these are some of the key ones of interest to environmental health professionals.

Jim Dale, Legislative Chair, DVM, MPH, MBA, is the Director of the Jefferson County Environmental Health Department.

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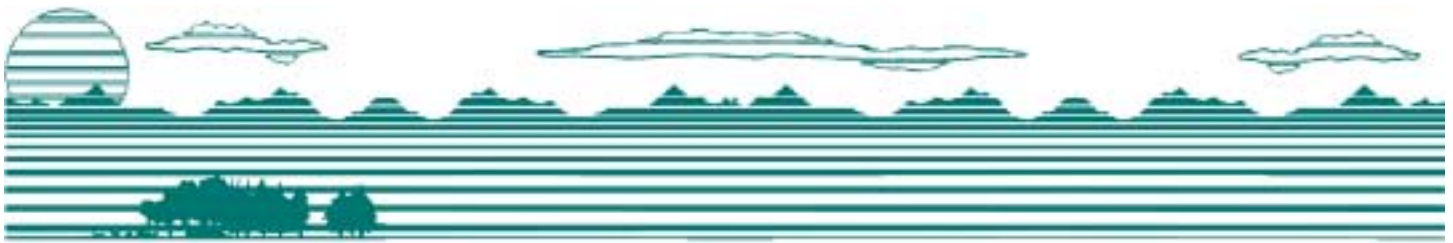
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Standards Ensure Products Meet Health and Safety Requirements

Editor's note: This is part two of a three-part series on "Understanding Conformity Assessment and its Relationship to Environmental Health". Part one of this three-part series addressed the issue of what conformity assessment is and why it is an important part of the certification process. In part two, we will address the issue of "What are standards, and what is their relationship to product certification?" Part three will provide an example of how the certification process works at Underwriters Laboratories, and will be presented in the next issue.

By James D. Dingman

Now that you have a general background of conformity assessment, let's turn our attention to the documents that are used to verify product compliance. These documents are called standards. A standard is a formal recognized published set of requirements for evaluating a particular product or class of products, for example, commercial cooking equipment evaluated for health effects.

Why are standards necessary?

When a need for a specific health or safety requirement is determined, standards provide an effective tool to specify technically sound, state of the art requirements that are applicable to specific products. In many instances, codes, regulations, and laws require compliance with specific standards. This achieves uniformity in evaluation of all manufacturers' products and uniformity between regulatory jurisdictions.

How are standards developed?

Standards Initiation: Standard development can be a lengthy and often costly process. The first step in this process is the identification of a need for a standard. Due to the time and cost involved in developing a standard, the need must be strong, and must be well documented. A standard that is not needed is neither important to nor accepted by the regulatory community.

Standard development organizations want their standard to be recognized as a national standard. The rationale behind this is simple. If more than one standard exists for a product, which one is to be recognized? Which one should the regulator reference or require? In such a situation, the regulator assumes responsibility liability. Having only one recognized national standard related to a specific category of products simplifies the process, and provides better uniformity and acceptance.

In order to develop an ANSI recognized national standard in the United States, the standards development organization obtains a Project Initiation Notification (PIN) from ANSI. The purpose of the PIN is to give notice of the standard development project and encourage cooperation, rather than duplication of standards efforts.

Standard Development (ANSI): Once the PIN has been obtained, the committee to work on the standard is formed. This consensus committee is made up of all interested stakeholder groups: manufacturers, consumers, regulators, and other interested parties. The composition of the committee is such that all stakeholder groups are represented equally. No specific group is permitted to obtain an unfair influence based on committee composition.

After the committee has developed and incorporated changes in several drafts of the standard, the final draft is distributed for public comment. All comments received must be addressed. Any negative comments must be supported by proper documentation. It is not required that all negative comments result in changes to the standard. However, the committee must address all negative comments, and technically support their response. Finally, the standard is ready to be balloted by the group that oversees the standard.

Once a consensus has been reached, and all remaining negative ballots appropriately addressed, the standard is sent to ANSI. ANSI does not review the content of the standard, but rather reviews the process to assure that the standard was developed in accordance with their procedural requirements. Once ANSI has reviewed the standard and it complies with their requirements, it is designated as an ANSI standard.

In order to assure that standards are uniform in their organization, the standards development organization must follow a similar outline in the organization of their standards. In general, the following format is used:

Foreword: This section is the "legal" section of the standard. It generally affords the standard writing organization a certain amount of protection with regard to use of the standard.

Introduction: The introduction contains general information needed to correctly apply the standard. Within the introduction are the scope, glossary, and installation and operating instructions.

Continued on Page 8

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36th Annual Education Conference

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Steamboat Plays Host to 36th AEC

Abstracts Now Being Accepted

CEHA's 2003 Annual Education Conference and Exhibition will be held Sept. 24-26 in Steamboat Springs, CO at the Steamboat Grand Resort Hotel and Conference Center. Your AEC planning committee is working with the Colorado Public Health Association (CPHA), and the Office of Preparedness in hopes of offering multi-party training event on Wednesday, Sept. 24 to start off this year's conference. This crossover day will address important and timely issues that affect both the environmental and public health professional.

The education committee is busy planning several events that will take place during this year's AEC:

- Business luncheon – Wednesday, Sept. 24 from noon to 1:30 p.m.
- Fourth annual Volleyball Tournament – Thursday, Sept. 25 from 3-5 p.m.
- Banquet and Entertainment – Thursday, Sept. 25 at the Ore House Restaurant
- Fourth Annual Silent Auction plus the Second Annual Live Auction – Get ready you Fat Cats!
- Pre-Conference REHS and CFSP Exams will be offered on Tuesday, Sept. 23 at the Steamboat Grand.

Presentation topics in the works for the AEC include: terrorism tabletop exercise to stimulate environmental and public health partnerships; emerging pathogens of concern and practical disease surveillance techniques; asthma and mold, indoor air hazards; the always popular local disease outbreak sessions; general environmental health to include air quality control issues; the latest in zoonotic disease; timely food safety issues to involve industry solutions to outbreak control; OWTS with real data from the field; and abstracts from, you, our CEHA members.

Room rates at the Steamboat Grand Resort are: \$59 per night for a Parlor (1 to 2 people), \$59 per night for a Double Queen (1 to 2 people), and \$153 per night for a 1 Bedroom Suite (1 to 3 people).

Rooms will be held at this low price until Aug. 23. Room rates will go up after this date and there is no guarantee that a room will be available! Call 1-877-296-2628 to make your room reservation. For more information on Steamboat Grand Resort Hotel and Conference Center visit steamboatgrand.com. Contact Therese Pilonetti at Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment by phone at (303) 692-3642 or e-mail tpilonetti@cehaweb.com for more information on the 2003 Annual Education Conference.

-Submitted by Therese Pilonetti, Education Chair, Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment

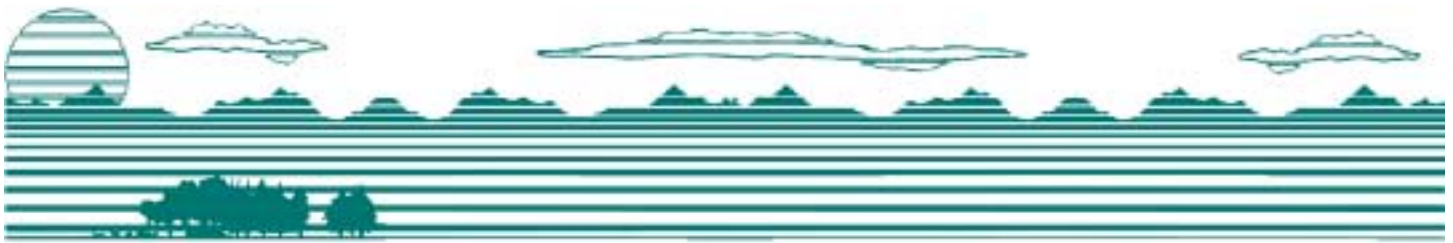
One of the most valuable parts of the conference are the presentations of local issues and accomplishments from our members. This is your opportunity to shine! The AEC committee would like to encourage all members to share your experiences learned through the hard work you do everyday.

If you have been involved in an interesting project, investigations or you feel you have a unique approach to what ails the environmental health professional, consider sharing your ideas, successes and learning experience in order to benefit your colleagues.

Please submit a synopsis of your presentation idea to the AEC Planning Committee by May 2. Include any copying, audio-visual or other needs along with your proposal. Please contact Therese Pilonetti with any questions. Abstracts can be mailed to: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO 80246, CPD-GS-B2; faxed to (303) 753-6809, or emailed to tpilonetti@cehaweb.com.

Student Mixer Debuts at 2003 AEC

Please mark your calendars! This will be the inaugural year of the "CEHA Student Mixer" at the AEC! All students and interested professionals are invited to this "must attend" event to meet the future leaders of environmental health and network with today's professionals in the fields of environmental and public health. Many exciting events are being planned around this get-together tentatively scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 25. Please watch for updates in future editions of *Point Source* and in the conference program. For more information or to assist in the mixer planning, contact Tom Gonzales at (970) 577-2051.



Budget Woes Stall Changes to ISDS Program

By Jim Rada

Anyone that is involved with a local Individual Sewage Disposal System (ISDS) program is likely to be familiar with the work that was completed early last year by the state Board of Health-appointed ISDS Steering Committee. The steering committee presented a report to both the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission and the State Board of Health, discussing 13 specific recommendations ranging from development of state-level leadership for the ISDS Program to development and implementation of performance-based standards for on-site wastewater systems (use of OWS instead of ISDS is another recommendation). A full copy of the Steering Committee report is viewable on the CEHA website under the "Issues" tab.

Described in the report as the "... linchpin for the overall set of recommendations offered by the Steering Committee" is the idea of creating a new state-level position to establish a meaningful state presence that can provide leadership and help advance efforts to address challenging issues related to onsite wastewater system management. The committee challenged the state Board of Health and the Water Quality Control Commission to endorse this recommendation and direct Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) staff to pursue this recommendation. The report and recommendations were strongly supported by both the board and commission. Subsequently CDPHE staff members were directed to pursue implementation of Recommendation #3 - Need for an Enhanced State Leadership Role.

Then came the state budget crisis.

As resources waned and local funding cuts took hold, attitudes began to change about this new state-level position. CDPHE officials faced hiring freezes and local health directors began to reconsider the appropriateness, or perhaps political correctness, of counties subsidizing state programs or positions. As the 2003 legislative session approached, upper-level decisions were made to delay action this year concerning the creation of a state-level ISDS program leadership position.

But all is not lost nor has the fire completely gone out. The Colorado Directors of Environmental Health met in late January and discussed implementation of Recommendation #3 at length. Discussions focused primarily on where a state-level program leader would reside and various funding mechanisms that could be utilized to fund such a position. Also, pursuant to recommendation #13 of the Steering Committee Report, the Steering Committee convened on March 6 to assess progress toward implementation of the recommendations. A report will be prepared and presented to the Board of Health and the Water Quality Control Commission later this spring.

It is obvious that local ISDS professionals will ultimately be

the driving force behind change in this program. The problem - only a few people want to step up and speak up for change. Local officials and private industry are not vocal enough to insist that ISDS be moved up the ladder in terms of its significance in the overall water quality picture in Colorado. Most of us would rather sit back and let things stay the same, or address only local issues while we continue to complain about our local problems or the lack of state support for the program. As things begin to happen, get involved and get others involved with you. Without more voices, without more support for statewide change, change will not happen.


Jim Rada is the Environmental Health Director with the Summit County Environmental Health Department.



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Food Safety Conference to Feature National Experts, Golf Tourney

Mark your calendars May 13-14 for the 31st Annual Rocky Mountain Food Safety Conference (RMFSC), held at the Boulder Broker Inn, in Boulder, CO. The speakers hail from New York, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

There's a topic that will interest everyone. Highlights for the two days include:

- Consumer Food Safety: What They Say They Do, What They Actually Do, Janet Anderson, PhD, RD, Utah State University
- Food Safety and Sanitation During the World Trade Center Rescue & Recovery Outbreaks Effort, Elliott Marcus, New York City Health Department
- Epidemiology and Control of Norovirus, Craig Hedberg, PhD, University of Minnesota
- Food Allergens & Labeling, Sue Hefle, PhD, University of Nebraska
- Food Product Recalls in Colorado, Patricia Klocker, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Bioterrorism Act and the Implications for Retail Food Service, FDA

Pre-registration fees for professionals: \$125 for two days, one day \$90. Students will pay \$60 for two days, or \$30 for one day. Consider the group rate: register five people from your organization, and the sixth is free.

Overnight lodging is available at the Boulder Broker Inn for a special conference rate of \$109 per night. Please call (303) 444-3330 or (800) 338-5407 to make reservations.

If you enjoy golf, register for the Golf Tournament on May 12. Proceeds will benefit the scholarship fund. For more tournament information, contact Devin Koontz at (303) 236-3020.

Look for your registration in April; for additional information, please call Chris Chiola at (720) 322-1508.

Attending the RMFSC will provide opportunities to gain valuable knowledge, network and renew friendships. Hope to see you May 12-14.

-Submitted by Raenette Hamann, Denver Dept. of Environmental Health.



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Health and Safety Requirements *Continued from Page 5*

The scope explains what products are covered by the standard. It may refer to other nationally recognized codes or regulations. It is important to check the scope to make sure that the product being investigated is covered by the standard.

The glossary provides definitions of terms that are not commonly used, or terms that are used in a way that might not correspond with the generally accepted definition.

Installation and operating instructions are used as a guide for product investigation. These instructions also include appropriate items of concern to users and installers of the product.

Construction: This section describes the physical characteristics required for covered products in order to comply with the standard. For example, a type of food service equipment may require a minimum thickness of stainless steel.

Performance: This section of the standard describes the performance compliance criteria and the various tests which the product needs to undergo. For example, plastic pipe may be subjected to various water pressures to assure that it will not rupture under various conditions.

Manufacturing and Production Tests: In this section, the standard specifies the tests required to be conducted by the manufacturer on 100 percent of the production before it leaves the factory. Of course, all test results must be acceptable.

Rating: The rating section specifies the units of measurements to be used in rating the product, such as "ppm" or "cfs" and performance limitations or capacities.

Markings: The markings section specifies how the product is to be marked. For example, the manufacturers name, identifying mark, and catalog number. Any requirements for instructions, warning or cautionary markings also appear here, and specify the text, location, and minimum letter height.

Other: This is a miscellaneous section for information that is not applicable in other sections.

Standard Development Organization Responsibilities

The "owner" of a standard is the organization that applied for the PIN and supervised development of the standard. Although anyone wishing to test products to a national standard may do so, only the owner of a standard can make revisions to the standard. If anyone using a standard has questions regarding anything in the standard, the owner of the standard can provide the required explanations. This helps promote uniformity in use of the standard and controls the maintenance process.

Standards are living documents. Once a national standard is published, it is required to be reviewed and maintained as new technologies, processes, or other applicable research and information becomes available.

James D. Dingman, R.E.H.S., D.A.A.S., with Underwriters Laboratories Inc. Northbrook, IL., is President of the National Environmental Health Association.



Upcoming Educational Opportunities

March 2003

Advanced Food Safety Seminar
Western Slope Edition

March 21

Contact Therese Pilonetti,
(303) 692-3642

Mosquito Biology Identification
and Control Training

TBA

Contact John Pape,
(303) 692-2628

April 2003

Hands on HACCP

Presented by CDPHE

April 8-9

Contact Therese Pilonetti,
(303) 692-3642

Onsite Waste Water Treatment
Training on the Western-Slope

presented by CEHA

April 9, Eagle, CO

Contact Heather Savalox,
(970) 879-0185

27th Annual Zoonosis Conference

April 10

Contact John Pape,
(303) 692-2628

May 2003

West Nile Surveillance Meeting
May 2

31st Annual Rocky Mountain Food
Safety Conference

May 13-14

Contact Chris Chiola,
(720) 322-1508 or
Raenette Hamann,
(720) 865-5374.

June 2003

NEHA Annual Educational
Conference

June 8-11, Reno, Nevada

www.neha.org

Retail Food Plan Review Training
presented by CEHA

TBA

Contact Lyle Moore Jr.,
(303) 271-5731

September 2003

CEHA Annual Education
Conference

September 24-26,

Steamboat Springs, CO

Contact Therese Pilonetti,
(303) 692-3642

OWTS One-day Training Offered on Western Slope

A one-day training seminar, Onsite Waste Water Treatment Systems (OWTS) will be held April 9 in Eagle at the Best Western Eagle Lodge, 200 Loren Lane.

For more information contact Heather Savalox at (970) 879-0185 or hsavalox@cehaweb.com.

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Call for Articles


This newsletter is published by the Colorado Environmental Health Association by and for our membership.

We request the submittal of articles on programs, research, and/or updates dealing with environmental health for inclusion in the newsletter. We will review all information for publication in our next newsletter. *Deadline for submittal is June 1, 2003.*

Send articles to Peter Kates
peter.kates@ci.denver.co.us

CPO Classes Offered by Tri-County

Certified Pool Operator classes are being offered by Tri-County Health Department. Cost for the class is \$195. Classes are held at 7000 E. Belleview in Englewood. Contact Ericka Koth at (303) 783-7131 for information, or request a brochure from any Environmental Health employee. Dates for the classes are: April 9-10, May 14-15, June 19-20, Sept. 9-10, and Dec. 9-10.



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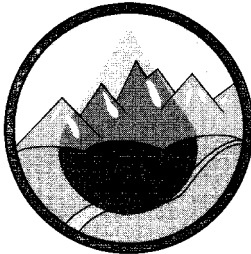
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CEHA'S MISSION

“To promote environmental health as a profession which strives for continual improvement in environmental health quality and the growth of individual professionalism.”

Tell me about CEHA

CEHA was established in 1966 and enjoys an outstanding reputation statewide as an innovative, progressive organization dedicated to advancing the cause of general, professional or technical environmental health.

Who joins CEHA?

CEHA is open to anyone employed in an environmental health position; student working toward a degree in environmental health; anyone interested in environmental health (associate membership); and corporation, businesses or associations with an interest in environmental health.

Why join CEHA?

CEHA offers educational seminars throughout the year to keep you informed on current issues in the profession. Seminars feature local and national speakers.

The Association coordinates an annual educational conference designed to update membership on current trends in environmental health and to

provide personal enrichment. Through CEHA you have the opportunity to meet other environmental health professionals from across the state.

Scholarship opportunities funded by CEHA are available for student attending Colorado State University and studying environmental health.

- CEHA is active in Colorado state legislation concerning environmental health programs, topics and concerns.
- CEHA publishes a quarterly newsletter to help you stay current on the latest environmental health issues and happenings within the Association.
- CEHA is an affiliate of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), giving you the opportunity to participate in a national organization with an international membership.

Most importantly, you have the ability to set the direction of the Association and the environmental health profession in Colorado through your participation in CEHA.

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Are you a Registered, Licensed or Certified Environmental Health Specialist?
 Yes No

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 Administration Research Other
Education High School Associate
 Bachelor's Master's Doctorate

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