



WHITMAN COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BOH REPORT

Board of Health Report
May 18, 2015

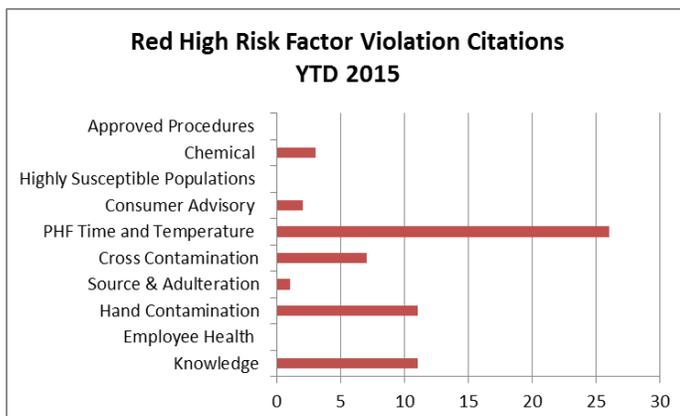
Food Protection Program

2015 Data

- 88 Total inspections
- 33 Since last meeting
- 79 Routine Inspections
- 5 Failure Re-inspections
- 2 New establishments
- 2 Complaint inspections
- 10 member FAC

Inspection Results

- ◆ 84/88 Passed (95.5%)
- ◆ 4/88 Failed (4.5%)
- ◆ Average of 5.64 points in Red violations
- ◆ Average of 1.7 points in Blue violations
- ◆ Average of 7.6 Combined points



Red high risk factor categorical violations cited from January to May 2015. Cold holding is the leading red violation, as 22.7% of inspections thus far in 2015 were violating cold holding regulations. Adequate hand wash sinks remain an issue in Whitman County with 12.5% of inspections thus far having inadequate hand wash sinks.

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School Gardens

The Whitman County Environmental Health Department is partnering with the Community Action Center (CAC) and their Fresh Food For Kids Program to assist in the application for a USDA Farm to School Grant to provide support service for Jefferson Elementary School, Lincoln Middle School and Community Child Care Center's Head Start Program.

The program will assist with health education through the school garden development with year round garden maintenance; will teach scratch cooking classes; and will offer support for teachers who would like to use the garden to enhance curriculum.

Goals of the program include:

- ◆ To provide school grown produce in the breakfast and lunch programs
- ◆ To increase our student's consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables
- ◆ To improve food literacy among children
- ◆ To impact positive change in how children think about fresh food

EH Highlights

- ◆ *Environmental Health staff complete first year*
- ◆ *2015 Food Advisory Committee*
- ◆ *OSS Codes updated to reflect WAC 246-272A*
- ◆ *OSS Advisory Committee Reformed*
- ◆ *Water System Outage*
- ◆ *GIS utilized in all EH programs*
- ◆ *School Gardens statewide initiative*

Drinking Water

2015 Sanitary Surveys

- 1) Dusty Country Store
- 2) Evangelical Free Church
- 3) Klemgard County Park

The Public Health Service (PHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation (0.7 milligrams per liter) identifies the optimal concentration of fluoride to prevent tooth decay while limiting the chance for dental fluorosis, which is a change in the appearance of the tooth enamel. The PHS recommendation only applies to those public water systems that add fluoride to reach the optimal concentration. Public water systems that contain naturally occurring fluoride at concentrations above 0.7 mg/L will not be affected by the new recommendation.

Fluoride Levels in Whitman County:

- Colfax- 0.9 mg/l
- Pullman- 0.5 mg/l
- Rosalia- 0.4 mg/l
- Malden- 0.2 mg/l
- Hooper- 0.3 mg/l
- Lacrosse- 0.2 mg/l
- Colton- 0.4 mg/l
- Uniontown- 0.2 mg/l
- Ewan- 0.5 mg/l



Fluoridation recommendations in drinking water have recently been reduced to 0.7 mg/l

Water Systems Currently Fluoridating

Pullman and Washington State University (0.8-1.3 mg/l)

Ewan Water System



The Ewan water system is currently classified as a Group B with 13 connections and an estimated service population of 23.

Environmental Health are assisting in the coordination of potential emergency funding and assistance with the Washington State Office of Drinking Water.

- ◆ **Department of Commerce**– Community Development Block Grant
- ◆ **USDA**– Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant
- ◆ **Evergreen Rural Water**– Rural Water Revolving Loan Program
- ◆ **Rural Community Assistance Corp.**– Intermediate Term Loan Program

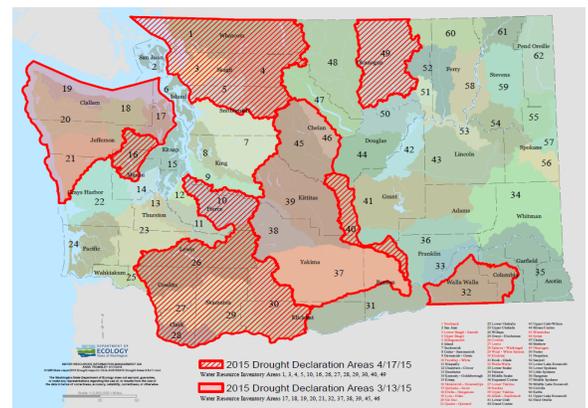
The Town of Ewan’s water system suffered two major breaks in the distribution system and is currently under repair. Services have been intermittent for 4 residences. The old asbestos piping material was unable to stand up to continued use and the changes in pressure as a result of the original repairs.

Currently, 24 of Washington’s river basins are in a declared drought emergency. This covers 44 percent of the total area of the state. In some regions, the Watermaster may notify residents that their class of water is no longer available.

As of May 11, snowpack statewide has declined to 16 percent of normal, worse than when the last statewide drought was declared in 2005. This year run-off from snowmelt for the period April through September is projected to be the lowest on record in the past 64 years.

Conditions in many parts of Whitman County are identified as “Abnormally Dry” by the Drought Mitigation Center (University of Nebraska-Lincoln).

Potential Drought Conditions



2015 Onsite Sewage Advisory Committee

Whitman County Environmental Health is pleased to announce the formation (or re-formation) of the Onsite Sewage Advisory Committee (OSSAC). Originally formed in 2010, the committee was placed on a brief hiatus due to continued changes in staffing, updating of statewide regulations, and changes in the local permitting process.

The overall goal of the committee is to assist the environmental health staff in developing and implementing the regulations for onsite sewage systems as defined in WAC 246-272A.



The initial meeting focused on the conversion of WAC 246-272A to meet Whitman County Code requirements. Key areas of the code that were identified as needing updating were:

- Identifying the minimum slope required as 1/8"/foot. Recommended slope not to exceed 1/4"/foot.
- Additional requirements and/or limitations considered for serial distribution system and use of chambered OSS domes.
- Access to distribution boxes for maintenance (Operations and Maintenance Plan [O&M]).
- Separation for onsite sewage drainfield "legs".

GIS and Onsite Sewage Systems



Accurately identifying the location of new and existing septic systems allows Environmental Health staff to quickly determine areas of concern, verify required setbacks, eliminates the need to conduct paper research, and improves turnaround time for septic system plan reviews. Additionally, the GIS data allows for a regional review of all septic systems to determine areas of increased failure rates and possible environmental contamination.

Environmental Health/Vectors

Environmental Health staff were contacted by Uniontown building officials concerning an abandoned house that has become a health hazard. An inspection revealed a very large accumulation of pigeon dropping and dead birds. Health concerns include histoplasmosis, Listeria, Salmonella, a variety of viruses that can cause encephalitis, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, and *Chlamydophila psittaci*. Illnesses can be caused by the inhalation or the ingestion of dust with signs of illness developing anywhere from 5 days to a full year after exposure.

Symptoms Include:

*Cough that lasts months *Sharp chest pain *Confusion
*Shortness of breath *Severe headache *Fever *Miscarriage
*Night sweats *Chills *Weight loss *Severe diarrhea *Cough



Whitman County Environmental Health

Pullman Office:
1205 SE Professional
Mall Blvd
Suite 203
Pullman, WA 99163

PHONE: 509-332-6752
FAX: 509-334-4517

Colfax Office:
Public Service Building
310 N. Main Street
Colfax, WA 99111

PHONE: 509-397-6280
FAX: 509-397-6239

EH@WhitmanCounty.net

Water Recreation



Whitman County Environmental Health staff are assisting the Washington State Department of Health with the overall plan review and construction process of water recreation facilities here in Whitman County. During 2015, one local apartment complex is completing updating an indoor (pictured above) and outdoor pool; one city park is building/updating their water play area, and several city pools are updating their facilities based on inspections conducted in the last year.

Whitman County Environmental Health staff are also members of the Washington State Department of Health's Water Recreation Safety Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and provide input on the development and implementation of regulations throughout Washington State.

One Year Anniversary!

It is amazing how time flies when you are having fun! It is even more amazing what you can accomplish in just one year.

Jeff Wilmoth—Start date May 8, 2015. Jeff has focused on the onsite sewage program (OSS). As the first of the EH Techs to be hired, Jeff was able to assist with the new staff as they were hired on. Jeff will continue as the OSS Program Coordinator, and at additional certifications to branch out into the other programs on a regular basis to become an EH Generalist.

Chris Skidmore—Start date May 21, 2015. Chris has served as the coordinator for the Pool, Greek Life, Drinking Water, and Solid Waste programs. He has also recently assumed the role of the GIS Lead for the EH Department and has developed data dictionaries and maps for all the EH Programs. Chris will continue in these roles throughout 2015.

Chelsea Cannard—Start Date June 2, 2015. Chelsea has served as the Food Protection Coordinator since starting in EH. The improvements she has made to the infrastructure of the program are numerous and have greatly streamlined the entire program. During the upcoming year, Chelsea will be working in all EH programs to help in program development and improvement.

Please join me in congratulating the EH staff for their accomplishments!



*Congratulations to all
Environmental Health staff on
their very successful first year.*