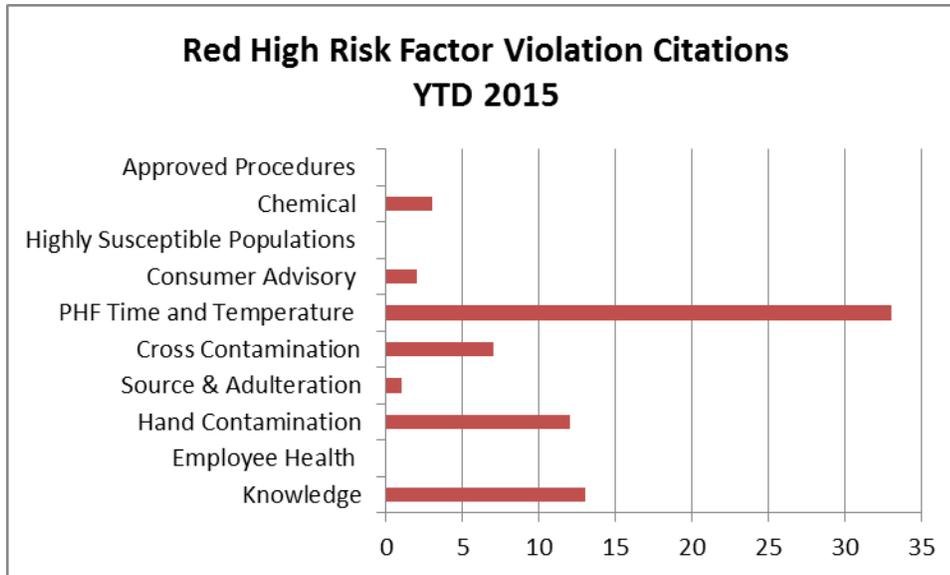


Whitman County Environmental Health



BOARD OF HEALTH REPORT
JULY 20, 2015

Food Protection Program



Graphical representation of the red high risk factor categorical violations cited from January 2015 to present day. Cold holding is the leading red violation with 30% of inspections YTD experiencing Cold Hold issues. Adequate hand wash sinks remain an issue in Whitman County with 14% of inspections YTD citing hand wash sinks.

Food Protection Program-Inspections and Complaints

Year-to-Date Food Service Establishment Summary

- **110 total inspections:**
 - * 5 re-inspections,
 - * 5 preoperational,
 - * 2 complaint,
 - * 4 failed

Environmental Health staff are will be completing the first full rounds of inspections for all permitted food service establishments at the end of July.

Temporary Events continue to thrive throughout the summer months. Unfortunately for Environmental Health staff, many of these events are unpermitted or are applying for a permit days (or in some cases **HOURS**) before the start of the event. While staffing does all possible to ensure a successful event, scheduling, staff time and/or overtime costs, and availability may result in application denials.

Since June 2014, the Food Protection Program has been coordinated by Chelsea Cannard. Chelsea has accepted a position elsewhere and will leave Whitman County Environmental Health at the end of July. The value and contributions that Chelsea added to the program cannot be overstated and her departure will have immediate impacts on the overall operations of the program. Whitman County Environmental Staff are very grateful for her innovative hard work and wish her best.

EH Highlights

- THE DEPARTING FOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM COORDINATOR POSITION WILL NOT BE FILLED
- REASSIGNMENT OF EH RESPONSIBILITIES
- FOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM COMPLETES FIRST ROUND OF INSPECTIONS
- NEW FOCUS TO OSS AND SAFETY ISSUES
- INCREASE IN SOLID WASTE AND LIVING ENVIRONMENT
- EH OTHER REQUIREMENTS INCREASE

EH Programs

FOOD PROTECTION	1
ONSITE SEWAGE	2
LIVING ENVIRONMENT	2
WATER RECREATION	3
EH & GIS	3
EH OTHER	4
EH OFFICE	4

Whitman County Environmental Health

Onsite Sewage Program

ONSITE SEWAGE PERMITS REMAIN AT HISTORICAL LOWS, BUT NUMBERS ARE BEGINNING TO INCREASE WITH THE CHANGES IN WEATHER AND INCREASE IN BUILDING PERMITS.



Port of Wilma begins repair of the septic system serving all business and industry located along the Snake River.



A tractor tire previously used as a drainfield.

Onsite Sewage Program will begin an educational outreach campaign that addresses the importance of Operations and Maintenance (O&M) as well as general safety related to on-site sewage disposal system.

- Total Number of Permits- 9
 - * Failures- 5/9
- Site Evaluations-15
- Pump Reports- 40
- Building Permits- 10 (+ pending)
- Planning Department
 - * RHC's-4
 - * Parcel Divisions-5

Living Environment

The Environmental Health Department has received an increase in complaints regarding “squatters” or individuals accumulating and storing large amounts or “garbage” or waste in violation of county solid waste ordinances. Many of these situations require working with the Whitman County Sheriff’s Office, the Whitman County Building Inspectors, Carothers Road Landfill, and local building officials. While each situation is different, Environmental Health staff aim to get the property cleaned up by providing information and resources to assist in the process.



Apparent squatters on property currently under investigation for ongoing solid waste violations.

Rural property in Whitman County currently without a potable water source or identifiable on-site sewage system.



Water Recreational Facilities



ALL WATER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN WHITMAN COUNTY ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE WAC 246-260

All recreational water facilities in Whitman County have been inspected at least once this year. Compliance schedules that were put in place for pools with violations in 2014 have been met for this pool season, and all pools are allowed to remain open. Another follow-up inspection of all facilities will take place at the end of the 2015 pool season. Environmental Health staff have been working with local pools in identifying potential grants to assist with repair work and safety concerns.

Compliance Schedules of local pool included:

- Painting of Pool
- New Chlorinator
- Fencing
- Self-Closing Gates
- Painting of Pool
- New Chlorinator
- Depth Markings
- VGB Drains



New pool chemical test kits greatly increase accuracy and efficiency of water quality testing in the field.

GIS and EH Programs



Environmental Health staff continue to utilize GIS and mapping technology in all EH programs and look forward to working closely with Public Works as they develop upgraded GIS abilities.

The Whitman County Environmental Health staff have been able to incorporate GIS into all EH services provided locally. Data Dictionaries have been developed to map all food service establishments, pools, newly permitted onsite sewage systems, and site evaluations. Additionally, dictionaries are under development to assist in the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response program (PHEPR) to identify all medical service providers and locations, co-location agreements, and distribution locations. This ability will be greatly enhanced by the recent GIS mapping upgrades undertaken by the Whitman County Public Works Department. Jeff Marshall, Project Engineer for the county, has taken the lead and been able to include Environmental Health in the discussions. This will greatly increase the ability and efficiency in working between departments.

Recently, the Washington State Department of Health has indicated a desire to begin implementation of GIS "tagging" in order to identify public water systems (both Group A's and Group B's). Environmental Health staff are proud to be ahead of the curve in the utilization of GIS.

EH “OTHER”

Everyday in Environmental Health brings the possibility of encountering a new situation. Environmental Health staff will frequently comment on the difficulties in maintaining a set schedule, as the first call of the morning has the ability to greatly impact the remainder of the day (or in many cases the reminder of the week).



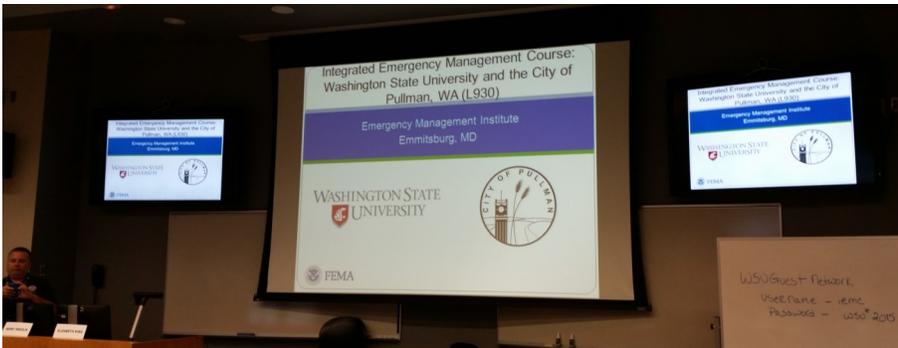
A complaint of “pollution” and “blood” in Paradise Creek gave Environmental Health the opportunity to monitor an eDNA being conducted by Washington State University.



Rabies and Animal Bites. Positive case in region prompts increase call and response in Whitman County.



Communicable Disease reports and investigations remain a responsibility of Environmental Health staff. On Monday, July 13th, staff received notification of a case of Salmonella, E. coli O157:H7, and Campylobacteriosis. The “Campy” and O157 cases required hospitalization for the patients, with the O157 case resulted in a multi-state investigation for a potential source.



Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC). Four day training with Whitman County, City of Pullman, and Washington State University on emergency response and recovery.

EH Office



Meghan Johns, current Pullman Office Support Staff, has assumed many of the Environmental Health permitting and financial responsibilities. Reviewing applications, issuing permits, receipting funds, and offering general procedure questions, will be some of Meghan's new responsibilities. Having been trained by Chelsea in the management of the Food Protection database, Meghan will be working out of both the Pullman and Colfax office to support EH.

In June of 2015, the Environmental Health Department returned **\$1842.00** to businesses and individuals in Whitman County. The refunds were given to members of the Food Advisory Committee, the Onsite Sewage Advisory Committee, and Certified Pool Operators. Permitted facilities that are active in regulation development (either within the committees or as part of ongoing credentialing) have demonstrated a reduced requirement for Environmental Health intervention and a greater awareness and application of regulations and best practices.