



Whitman County Environmental Health

Board of Health Report

March 15, 2015
2:30 pm
Whitman County BOCC Chambers



Environmental Health Department Updates

Φ Fraternity and Sorority Inspections Environmental Health partnership with Greek Life

Inside this issue:

Greek Life Inspections	1
Drinking Water	1
Food Protection	2
Pools	3
Animal Carcass	3
Solid Waste	4
Codes and Policies	4



Beginning at the start of each calendar year, Whitman County Environmental Health and the Washington State University Office of Fraternity and Sorority life partner together to meet the University's required for "approved off-campus housing". EH staff review the food service areas, restrooms, common areas, living environments, give a general review of water supply and general over-

all safety conditions. These inspections are used as a complete packet that each "house" is required to submit to the university for approval. These inspections are a "fee-for-service" and take approximately 2.5 hours each to complete.

Points of Interest

- * All staff promoted to Environmental Health Specialist following successful completion of probation period.
- * Chelsea Cannard serving as WSEHA Regional Vice-President.
- * Chris Skidmore to serve on Whitman County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Drinking Water

The Drinking Water Advisory Group (DWAG)

- Consolidation of small water systems
- Funding more projects under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

All EH staff attended the Department of Health Sanitary Surveyor training in Moses Lake. The 2-day course prepares inspectors for field surveys and provided staff with repair kits.



On March 13th Governor Jay Inslee declared drought in three regions of Washington State. (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/drought/>)

Food Protection Program

2015 food program:

- 43 Routine Inspections
- 5 Re-inspections due to failure
- 2 Pre-operational inspections for new establishments

Of those inspections:

- 46/50 Passed (92%)
- 4/50 Failed (8%)
- Average of 5.4 points in Red violations
- Average of 2 points in Blue Violations
- Average of 3.58 combined points

OTHER FOOD PROGRAM NEWS:

- Food advisory committee: many applicants with the permit deduction incentive. We are expecting to have a full committee in 2015. First meeting at the end of April.
- Permitting and Billing: Near completion of the permitting process, some kinks to work out but annual billing process went relatively smooth in 2015.
- Approved Kitchens and Farmers Markets: Working on policies and procedures for approving limited-use kitchens and making a new classification for farmers market vendors not serving potentially hazardous foods.

January - March 2015



Figure 1 - Graphical representation of the red high risk factor categorical violations cited from January to March 2015. Cold holding is the leading red violation, as 22% of inspections thus far in 2015 were violating cold holding regulations. Adequate hand wash sinks remain an issue in Whitman County

Emphasis for the Food Protection Program will be in temperature control and appropriate sinks.

Food storage remains concern

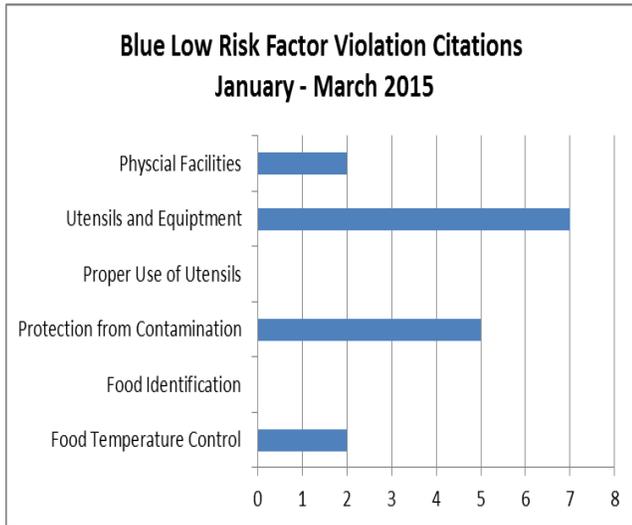


Figure 2 - Graphical representation of blue low risk factor categorical violations cited from January to March 2015. Potential contamination during storage remains a common blue violation in Whitman County. This includes storage containers, location of food storage, and improper stacking methods. Other common blue violations include general sanitation of food and non-food contact surfaces



Water Recreation Facilities

Every year, many pools around Washington state host April Pools Day events for families and community members. This year, the Environmental Health Department will be placing additional emphasis on proper sanitization by mechanical chlorinators during the 2015 water recreation facility season.

2015 Pool Permits

- 14 /19 pools have been issued operating permits
- 2 pools undergoing construction
- April 2015- CPO certification for staff



Originally developed in Phoenix, Arizona (Maricopa County), April Pools Day is an opportunity for pools and outdoor water parks to provide water safety to their communities. Building on the safety principles of the existing program, the Environmental Health Department will work with owners and operators to ensure their facilities



Onsite Sewage Program

- Total Number of permits– 3
 - * Failures– 1/3
- Site Evaluations-7
- Pump Reports-25
- Building Permits-4/21 (year to date)
- Planning Department
 - *6-RHCs for 2015
 - *4-Completions for 2014 RHCs

Onsite Sewage Committee :

The 2015 Onsite Sewage Committee Advisory Group will be holding their first meeting in late spring. Topics will include the requirement for evaluations at time of sale and updates to county code. Designers, installers, engineers, and realtors have already stated interest.

Army Corps concerned about dead cattle

In March, Whitman County Environmental Health was contacted by the Army Corps of Engineers concerning the disposal of animal carcasses on the property located near Central Ferry Park (approximately 35 miles southwest of Colfax). On Friday, March 13, 2015, an additional three animals were discovered. The area is described as having “a large amount of bleached and old bones”. Whitman County Environmental Health staff will be inspecting the scene the week of March 16th to identify any immediate public health concerns and determine appropriate actions based on WAC 246-203-121 “Disposal of dead animals”. Whitman County Health Officer, Dr. Brad Bowman, believes that without any identified public health concerns that natural decomposition remains an acceptable method of disposal.



A small, but consistent, number of dead cattle have been found on property owned by the USACE near Central Ferry, Washington

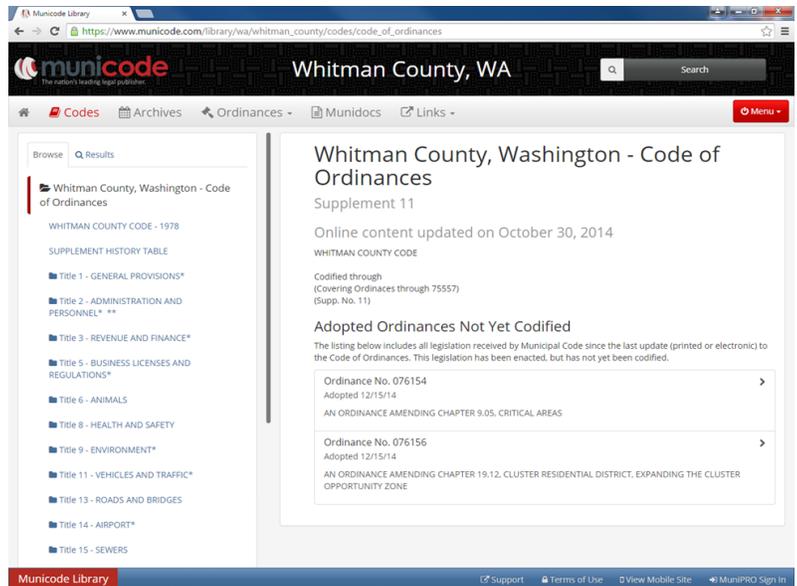
Updating codes, policies, and procedures

2015 has begun with an additional emphasis being placed on documenting the work we do and clarifying the overall responsibilities of the Environmental Health Department. The EH department works closely with many cities/towns, departments, state and federal agencies. As a result, it is essential that the abilities and limitations are clearly identified.

2015 EH Program

Policies and Procedures:

- ◇ Food Protection Program
- ◇ Onsite Sewage
- ◇ Solid Waste Regulations
- ◇ Solid Waste Enforcement



Environmental Health staff are currently reviewing all Whitman County Municipal Codes to ensure that all applicable environmental health codes are up to date and reflect current regulations that the department follows.

Solid Waste and Enforcement



Increase in interest and activities in Inert Fill and Inert Landfill Permits. Currently, Whitman County Environmental Health has 3 Inert Landfill or Inert Fill permits issued in Whitman County. The areas are permitted and inspected annually.

So far this year, there are approximately 8 solid waste cases that EH staff are currently working on. In 2015, the overall numbers of complaints have increased as well as the variety and locations. EH staff are currently creating data dictionaries to be able to accurately track and monitor these complaints using GIS.

Landfill Free Year-Round Services:

- * Old Appliances and Scrap Metal
- * Used Oils and engine fluids
- * Household cleaners
- * Recyclables
- * Green Wastes

Spring Clean Up April 17-25, 2016

Return in tipping fees. Only \$35.00 per ton!

