



Environmental News

Volume III, Issue II

April 2005

Training Dates Available at JCCHS

5/4/05 Child Care- Environmental Health/Emergency Preparedness

Call for Details

660-747-6121 Ext 258

Helpful Websites

Johnson County Community Health Services

www.johnsoncounty-health.org

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

www.dnr.state.mo.us

Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services

On-site Wastewater

www.dhss.mo.gov/Onsite/index.html

Centers for Disease Control

www.cdc.gov

Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.gov

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PLEASE CIRCULATE

Registration Required for On-site Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) professionals

State laws now require Installers, Loan Inspectors, Percolation Testers, and Soil Evaluators be registered by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). These laws are intended to improve the water quality in Missouri. As of July 1, 2005, Installers will need an Advanced Installer registration in order to install Advanced Wastewater Systems. Advanced systems are engineered and/or alternative treatment systems such as sand filters and other media bio-filters, con-

structed wetlands, sand mounds, low-pressure distribution systems, drip irrigation systems, modified shallow placed gravity lateral trenches and other systems using fill soil material.

State registered professionals are required to perform all of their work in accordance with state laws and regulations regarding OWTS, even if the property is exempt from permitting. Currently, single-family homes on less than three acres, multifamily homes, businesses, and places of assembly re-

quire a permit. Properties over three acres that have more than one home on the property may also require a permit. JCCHS recommends that prior to having OWTS work performed the homeowner should call JCCHS and become familiar with current regulations. Recently, JCCHS has received several inquiries asking if there is a state requirement to have the OWTS inspected during a real estate transaction. The state does not require that an inspection be

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Health Effects of Backyard Burning

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) warns that the largest quantified source of dioxin emissions is the uncontrolled burning of household trash. Dioxins are long-lasting

substances that can build up in the food chain to levels harmful to human and ecosystem health. Dioxin adversely affects reproduction and development, suppresses the immune system, dis-

rupts the hormonal systems and causes cancer. Backyard burning also releases particle pollution that can aggravate respiratory conditions such as asthma. Cancer causing compounds

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Spring Cleanup More Than A Beautification Issue

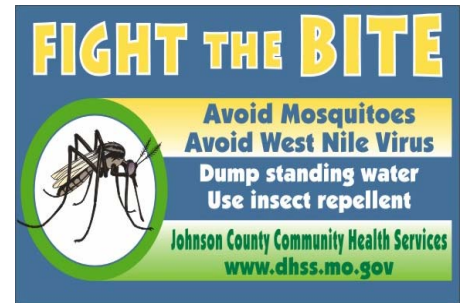
With the onset of spring many residents will be outside enjoying the weather and working in their yards. In addition to planting flowers and sowing grass seed, now is the time to prepare for the upcoming mosquito season. Since the arrival of West Nile Virus (WNV) to Johnson County in 2002, the Johnson County Community Health Services (JCCHS) has urged residents to control standing water around their homes in order to reduce the number of mosquitoes.

There were 37 human cases of WNV in Missouri in 2004, which is down from 63 cases in 2003, said Judy Schache, R.N. Director of Public Health at

JCCHS. Many people are now aware of WNV and what they need to do to avoid getting the disease. We cannot relax our efforts as the disease remains in the wild bird population of Johnson county. The majority of the people have mild symptoms, such as headaches or fevers, and therefore are not diagnosed with WNV. However for others it is a fatal disease. Besides humans, this disease affects several species including horses and birds. Schache says there is a vaccination that is available for horses and recommends owners talk to their veterinarian.

“Mosquitoes need standing water to reproduce”, according to Ray James, Environmental Pub-

lic Health Specialist with JCCHS. James; a Certified Public Health Pesticide Applicator who conducted mosquito control operations in Panama, Haiti and El Salvador for the U.S. Army, says “the best, most cost effective, least hazardous way to control mosquitoes is to control standing water”.



Anything that can hold a half-

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Burning

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such as Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons and Hexachlorobenzene are also released when household trash is burned.

According to Ray James, an Environmental Public Health Specialist with the Johnson County Community Health Services (JCCHS), many people are unaware of the health and legal consequences of backyard or open burning. “I have talked to several people this last year that had no idea that they were in violation of Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) State Regulations concerning open burning,” James said. One man who was burning demolition debris, large rubber

belts and tires thought he had permission to burn since he contacted the local fire station. According to James, he evidently did not tell the station what he intended to burn as the local fire station would not and could not have given him permission to violate State Regulations.

Any waste generated by a business, trade, industry or demolition cannot be burned. This includes, but is not limited to paper, cardboard boxes, pallets, tires, rubber products, hazardous materials, styrofoam, plastics, petroleum based products, asbestos-containing materials and treated wood. “I advise individuals to consult with the MDNR, Kansas City Regional Office at (816) 622-7000 for specific

questions on what, when and where items can be burned,” advised James.

Residents who live in town should check with their city hall and local fire station if they choose to burn household trash on their property. Although burning of your own household trash may be permitted on your property, JCCHS does not recommend that people do so because of the potential health consequences.

For additional information about the health effects and alternatives to backyard burning please visit the EPA web site at www.epa.gov/msw/backyard or JCCHS Environmental Health Office at (660) 747-6121. To

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Spring Cleanup More Than A Beautification Issue

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inch of water for more than 5 days needs to be eliminated, drained or cleaned. Clean out gutters, check flat roofs for proper drainage and insure the water is channeled away from the foundation and not allowed to pool. This will not only help to control mosquitoes but reduce moisture and mold problems in buildings. Old tires, trash, used equipment and appliances should be eliminated. Drain decorative yard ornaments, flowerpots and recycling containers by drilling holes in their bases. Change the water in pet bowls daily and in birdbaths twice a week. Clean livestock water troughs weekly. Cover, drain or maintain chlorine residual in pools to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. The fish in farm ponds and decorative water features are usually enough to control breeding mosquitoes in these situations. To control mosquitoes in sewage

lagoons, ponds or in areas subject to seasonal flooding, James recommends using a product that contains *Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies israelensis*. Several local feed and hardware stores sell these products in a doughnut shape or granular form. In addition to controlling standing water around their homes residents can avoid being bitten by mosquitoes by:

1. Wearing long sleeves and pants.
2. Avoid being outside during the heaviest feeding times that are at dawn and dusk.
3. Treating clothing with a clothing repellent.
4. Covering exposed skin with an insect repellent containing N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide also known as DEET.

James says he is often asked about alternatives to DEET and if it is safe for pregnant women

and children to use. Recent studies indicate that DEET is safe to use when applied according to directions. James cautions that small children often forget to wash their hands and will put their fingers in their mouths. For this reason he says parents should apply repellents regardless if it contains DEET or "natural" ingredients. Non-DEET repellents have to be applied more often and have been shown not to be as effective. For more information about DEET, James recommends a Question and Answer sheet on Insect Repellent Use and Safety that can be found on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/insect_repellent.htm. Additional information about the WNV can be found at the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services web site at www.dhss.mo.gov and on the CDC web site at www.cdc.gov.

On-site

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conducted. If an inspection is conducted, there is no requirement that repairs be made. However, if a mortgage company, bank or buyer request an inspection, it must be performed by a Licensed Loan Inspector. Most mortgage companies now require the inspection of the OWTS, and deficiencies corrected prior to the sale. The most common deficiency of OWTS found in Johnson County is the lack of a perimeter

fence surrounding a sewage lagoon. Several Johnson County homeowners have been denied refinancing by mortgage companies because they have refused to fence their lagoon. Additional information is available from the DHSS at www.dhss.mo.gov/Onsite.



Burning

learn about Missouri's Solid Waste and Air Pollution laws and alternatives such as reducing the amount of trash generated, reusing and recycling materials visit the MDNR web site at www.dnr.mo.gov. To report illegal burning or dumping, call the MDNR, Kansas City Regional Office or use their online Environmental Report form at www.dnr.mo.gov/concern.htm

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References

MDNR Fact Sheet: Facts on Open Burning Under Missouri Regulations
DHSS Memo Dated July 3, 2003 New Hot Water Policy
DHSS Memo Dated January 12, 2005 Requirements for Advanced Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Installers
EPA web site www.epa.gov/msw/backyard

Tidbit

JCCHS would prefer to send these newsletters by email or fax to save on printing costs. Please contact Travis to give him your email address or fax number. Thanks.

Hot Water Problems in Your Child Care Facility?

“I need more hot water to wash dishes.” “We need to turn the water heater up.” “The hot water temperature exceeds 120° F at the sinks accessible to the children so we need to turn the temperature on the water heater down.” Up, down, up then down.

If this sounds like your child care facility you may want to consider installing Mechanical Tempering Devices.

The advantage of this type of device is that the water heater temperature can be set high to deliver very hot water to a dishwasher or utility sink; while the temperature of the water at the hand sink is controlled to prevent scalding. These devices are very common in hotels, nursing homes and hospitals.

One type of Mechanical Tempering Device replaces the current faucet as the tempering device is built into the faucet. Another type installs below the sink. Both the hot and cold water lines connect to the device and then into one line that is supplied to the existing faucet on the sink.

The current Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services policy requires that a child care facility found to have an accessible sink at a temperature greater than 121° F must turn down the water heater immediately and be re-inspected. If a facility

has three inspections with elevated temperatures then the installation of tempering devices is required. A temperature found above 150° F requires installation of a tempering device within 30 days. To measure the temperature at your sinks:

- turn on the hot water and let it run for 5 minutes
- place the stem of the thermometer into the water stream and read the dial after 30 seconds.
- the correct temperature for an accessible sink is between 100° F and 120° F.