

Mason County Environmental Public Health 2006 Work Plan

Standard: **Assuring a Healthy Environment**

Measure 1: Environmental health education is a planned component of public health programs.

Measure 2: Services are available to respond to environmental events or natural disasters that threaten the public's health.

Measure 3: Both environmental health risks and environmental health illnesses are tracked, recorded and reported.

Measure 4: Compliance with public health regulations is sought through enforcement actions.

Summary

The Department performs ongoing activities to assure that people have a safe and healthy environment. These include:

- Inspections of regulated facilities
- Permitting of activities that could impact public health
- Enforcement and development of regulations and standards
- Food, water and vector borne disease investigations

Program areas most associated with this key area include:

- Drinking water
- Solid waste
- Septic systems, O&M, and land development
- Vector control
- Food protection
- Shellfish
- Chemical/Physical hazards
- Living environment

2005 Accomplishments

- Completed sanitary surveys of 26 Group A water systems, and received and processed 65 variance requests.
- Increased the number of onsite septic systems in the O&M database to 14,500. Licensed 17 pumpers, 72 installers and 15 O&M specialists.
- Issued 967 onsite septic permits, 1,190 building site applications and 147 commercial permits.
- Provided technical assistance for 64 pre-applications and generated 222 loan status reports.
- Conducted 157 new well seal and 10 well decommissioning inspections. Approved 113 well site locations and surface seal construction inspections on 252 of the 339 wells drilled in Mason County.
- Conducted 343 routine food inspections at permitted food establishments and issued 136 temporary event food permits. Investigated 35 complaints of food related illnesses, no confirmed outbreaks.
- Contracted with WSU Co-operative Extension to provide food handlers classes and issued 2,015 food worker cards in conjunction with 72 classes (in English and Spanish as necessary). 12 classes were held in Belfair and 60 in Shelton.
- Conducted 23 routine inspections of permitted pools and spas.
- Sent in 24 birds for West Nile Virus testing. 0 positive. Followed up on 29 (20 dog and 9 cat) animal bite reports. 2 animals sent in for rabies testing. 0 positive.
- Responded to 6 illegal drug manufacturing /storage sites and investigated 39 illegal dumpsites.
- Responded to 134 new solid waste complaints, closed 186 cases, issued 150 civil infractions for a total of \$29,735 in fines and \$4,325 in restitution; and took 27 solid waste cases to the Hearings Examiner, filing liens in the amount of \$81,573.
- Analyzed 131 nitrate samples, 1,925 drinking water samples and 1,765 surface water samples.
- Provided educational display at Oysterfest and collected bi-weekly mussel samples for biotoxins testing.
- Tested 2 marine swimming areas and 14 lake swimming areas for bacterial pollution. Samples are taken monthly, May – September.
- Conducted 3 dye tests of septic systems and monitored water levels in 10 port piezometers throughout the Skokomish Valley.
- Presentations about our O&M program to the WSEHA Annual Educational Conference in Spokane and to the State Board of Health.

Priority Actions for 2006 (determined by EH staff at 1/10/06 retreat)

- Enhance the O&M database for onsite septic systems
- Develop onsite sewage regulations based on the newly promulgated State rules, present to the Board of Health for adoption.
- Enter Group B drinking water systems into Tidemark database.
- Develop a policy to address clean up of properties with solid waste violations that are owned by a bank or other 3rd party
- Add water quality to the Health web site
- Develop a master water sampling list
- Inventory and develop a maintenance schedule for water quality equipment
- Revise water quality standard operating procedures to reflect current equipment and procedures
- Review and revise laboratory forms
- Provide vector training for all EH staff
- Compile written bat exposure policy and form, dog bite form
- Add a vector section to the Health web site
- Develop a FAQ for the web site
- Increase mosquito trapping, set up a calendar and have all staff take home to get a broad representation of the county
- Get current with onsite complaints
- Develop a single O&M manual to cover the 5 types of systems that is user friendly for the homeowner
- Get the onsite web page up and running
- Develop and O&M Standard Operating Procedures
- Update recording forms and have them available on line
- Research additional clerical for EH, permit tech system is not working up to expectations. Explore options with PAC management.
- Update policies and procedures manual (compendium too)
- Submit articles, line fillers to the Journal starting with Septic Do & Don't
- Update EH job descriptions
- Continue cross training staff
- Improve food worker card accountability, identify food permits (permanent & temporary) with a unique number and date stamp as per audit findings
- Institute Juvenile Detention Center food worker training program
- Assist with 'all health' staff training
- Institute performance evaluations for EH staff

- Look at staff hours in each program – potential need of additional personnel to implement new food standards
- Set up a program to assist small quantity generators
- Develop educational flyer on how to dispose of hulk vehicles – joint with Public Works and Planning – multi pronged approach
- GPS 430 Group B water systems by the end of June, Group A sanitary surveys as per JPO with DOH
- Implement tasks in the Drinking water JPO
- Update drinking water regulations, approval by DOH and into Title 6
- Finalize Group B water system workbook
- Create procedures and specific job duties of each program “for the next person”
- Update and add septic conditions for Building permits
- Reorganize onsite office to give staff more private work areas (cubicles)
- Create a “photo wall” of staff photos
- Institute a quality assurance review of enforcement activities

Indicator Data – Assuring a Healthy Environment

Measure	Measure Type	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	Target Goal
Routine Food Service inspections	Work Output	401 128 temp	343 136 temp	100%
Septic System Permits issued	Work Output	709	967	100%
Percent of septic Systems maintained	Outcome	No data	17.7% 2,566	20%
Number of solid Waste complaints	Demand	184	134	
Percent of SW Comp resolved	Outcome	254 138%	186 138%	60%*
Number of CLD Investigations	Demand	8	6	
Number of water Samples analyzed	Work Output	3,856	3,821	100%
Well construction Inspection (individual)	Work Output	164 75%	157 62%	50%*

* Goals are the result of contract negotiations with the Department of Ecology

Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Mason County