

Mason County Environmental Public Health 2007 in Review

Washington Public Health Standards Assuring a Safe, Healthy Environment for People

In 2007, we...

Onsite Sewage:

Issued 807 onsite septic system permits (87 were repairs), processed, provided technical assistance for 100 pre-applications and generated 123 loan status reports to ensure that homeowners installed and maintained onsite sewage systems and drinking water wells in a manner that protects public health. Processed 28 short plats and 9 large lot subdivisions.

Certified 15 septic system pumpers, 82 installers, and 19 operation and maintenance specialists to work in Mason County. Provided one workshop for county certified onsite professionals and staffed the Onsite Advisory Committee meetings.

Enhanced the operation and maintenance (O&M) program to remind homeowners when septic system service is due for their onsite system. Provided onsite septic system information at 8 public events/workshops and developed educational materials and fact sheets to increase public awareness of onsite sewage system operation and maintenance and water quality throughout the county. Have 25,439 onsite septic systems on the O&M database. Entered 5,829 service events (inspections, septic tank pumpings, O&M component service, etc) into the O&M database (3,075 pumps, 528 maintenance and 2,226 homeowner inspections). Reminders were sent out to 10,876 onsite septic system owners.

Drinking Water:

Completed sanitary surveys on 37 Group A water systems to ensure proper operation of the systems. Reviewed designs for 18 Group B public water systems, approving 10 systems. Measured and recorded GPS locations of 47 Group B wells.

Completed 3 special purpose investigations of Group A systems to assess potential drinking water contamination. Resolved 4 Group B non-acute MCL violations and 3 acute MCL violations with disinfection.

Ensured that new wells are constructed properly and old wells no longer in use are removed from service by conducting 137 new well seal inspections out of 201 wells drilled in 2007 and 15 well decommissioning inspections. Ensured proper well location by approving 98 well sites. 140 Group B water systems have been researched and added to the Tidemark database, enabling staff to search for water system connections by parcel number. In addition, 110

Two Party Water Systems have been identified and their public water system IDs have been inactivated.

Food Safety:

Conducted 362 routine inspections at 278 permitted retail food service establishments and issued 130 temporary event permits.

Contracted with WSU Co-operative Extension to provide food handlers classes and issued 1981 food worker cards in conjunction with 86 classes (includes Spanish language classes as necessary).

Living Environment:

Conducted 22 routine inspections of permitted pools and spas at hotel/motels and apartment complexes to prevent illness and unintentional drowning.

Sent 13 birds in for West Nile Virus (WNV) testing, 0 positive. The breakdown was 11 Crows, 1 Northern Flicker and 1 Sharp-Shinned Hawk. Provided WNV information to the media, at public events and in county building lobbies. Trapped mosquitoes for identification by the State Department of Health.

Sent 11 animals (8 bats, 3 dogs) to the state lab for rabies testing, 1 bat tested positive for rabies. Responded to 9 additional bat calls that did not require testing. Provided information on vector control to homeowners and the media. Followed up on 18 dog bite reports with Mason County & City of Shelton Animal control. Responded to numerous calls concerning dead birds and 1 dead rat.

Solid and Hazardous Waste:

Participated in 4 educational efforts, some with Mason County Recycling, providing information and staff expertise.

Responded to 122 new solid waste complaints and resolved 218 open cases. Continued follow-up work with approximately 175 residents to come into compliance. Issued 102 civil infractions for solid waste violations resulting in \$32,750 in fines in an effort to get properties cleaned up. Took 22 solid waste cases to the Hearings Examiner.

Tracked and provided oversight to 28 solid waste facilities in Mason County who handle solid waste or biosolids as a part of their business activities. Issued over 200 junk vehicle affidavits allowing residents to legally remove junk vehicles from properties in Mason County.

For the first time in many years, there were no drug labs reported to EH to respond to for posting or approval of a clean up plan.

Water Quality:

Tested water at 2 marine swimming areas for bacterial pollution, a total of 122 samples, to assure the swimming areas meet bacteriological safety standards. Tested 16 lake swimming areas 84 times for bacterial pollution during the summer to track ambient long-term trends.

Worked cooperatively with the Mason Conservation District, WSU Mason County Extension, Department of Health, Department of Ecology Squaxin Tribe, Skokomish Tribe, and other agencies/groups on a groundwater nutrient monitoring project, watershed planning, marine biotoxin monitoring, ambient monitoring as part of the Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program and the assessment of fecal coliform pollution sources on Mission Creek and Little Mission Creek.

Participated in public education and outreach events: Oysterfest, Near Shore Restoration Project, Environmental Explorations, Youth Summit, Students in the Watershed, Oakland Bay Open House, Kennedy Creek Salmonfest, Webb Hill public presentation on the Hydro-geologic study, and Community and Home Owner's Association meetings. Attended meetings for WRIA 16, HCDOP, nitrogen work group, Totten Eld TMDL, Oakland Bay Shellfish Protection District, Annas Bay Shellfish Protection, Skokomish River TMDL, and Conservation District Supervisors.

Conducted 25 sanitary surveys (7 in Annas Bay, 12 in Oakland Bay, 6 in Hood Canal), performed 11 septic system dye traces (4 in Annas Bay, 3 in Oakland Bay, 4 in Hood Canal) and collected 806 water samples (85 Oakland Bay, 721 Hood Canal) in project focus areas. Provided homeowner education and 5 public information sessions.

Water Laboratory:

Maintained State certification for 12 methods of drinking water and surface water analysis. Analyzed 143 nitrate samples, 1,842 drinking water samples, and 2,161 surface water samples which includes 227 Marine Beach samples, 16 Lake Samples, 122 Mason County Samples and 105 Skokomish Tribe Samples.

Shellfish:

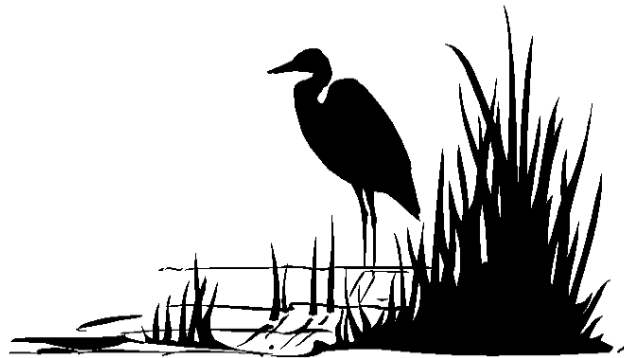
Provided educational materials to the public at Oysterfest. Collected bi-weekly mussel samples from Jarrell's Cove for biotoxins testing. Provided public health warning signs for biotoxin events affecting recreations shellfish beaches, and provided public health warning signs to individual homeowners for their beaches.

Environmental Health Administration:

Actively participated with the Washington State Environmental Health Directors and the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials legislative committee. Served on the Mason Matters Board of Directors. Represented Environmental Health on the County's Emergency Management Planning Team.

Mason County Environmental Health

“Always Working For a Safer and Healthier Mason County”



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